

6/1943

INVENTORY and APPRAISAL of FURNISHINGS

of THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SITKA, ALASKA

Location	Description	Number	Condition	Value	Total
Church	60 ft. of carpet		good		\$30.
	organ (reed)	1	fair		200.
	organ bench	1	poor		4.
	oak pews	24	good	\$45.	1080.
	fir pews	52	poor	10.	520.
	tables	9	fair	7.	63.
	church Hymnals 1914 ed.	30	fair	.30	9;
	S. S. benches	5	good	1.	5.
	dark oak chair set	7	good	4.	28.
	S. S. chairs	20	fair	2.	40.
	choir chairs	21	poor	1.	21.
	pulpits	2	fair	20.	40.
	Church Hymnals 1933 ed.	200	good	1.	200.
	Triumphant Song Books	175	good	.40	70.
	Allelulia Hymnals	25	fair	.40	10.
	pulpit chairs	3	fair	10.	30.
	flower stands	6	fair	1.	6.
	furnaces	2	fair	125.	250.
	window casings	9	poor	1.	9.
	church bell	1	good		200.
	church music		good		250.
S. J. S.	Stained glass windows	2	good	75.	150.
	organ & bench		fair		28.
	tables	3	fair	3.	9.
Manse	Monarch Range with				
	oil burner	1	good		135.
	kitchen tables	2	fair	3.	6.
	dining room table	1	poor		10.
	chairs	12	fair	2.	24.
	buffet	1	fair		10.
	library table	1	good		10.
	rocking chairs	4	fair	5.	20.
	study desk	1	good		25.
	double bed mattress				
	& springs	2	poor	10.	20.
	single bed (cot)	1	poor	**	***
	bureaus	4	poor	4.	16.
	bed side stands	2	poor	**	***
	bed room chairs	2	poor	**	***
	book cases	2	poor	**	***
	Rollof carpet runner		fair	15.	15.
	large tables	2	fair	*5.	10.
	box of miscellaneous				
	dishes		poor	**	***
	Rug 9x12 & throw rug		Poor	5.	5.
	wicker set	3 pieces	poor	15.	15.
	fire extinguishers	2	good		15.
	fire place bench	1	poor	**	***
	mattress for cot	1	poor	**	***
	ladies desk	1	good		10.
	wooden floor lamp	1	poor	**	***
	Ironing board	1	good		2.
	coal bucket	1	good	1.	1.
	clothes basket	1	good	2.	2.

continued:

Location	Description	No.	condition	Value	Total
Manse	curtain rods	6	poor	**	**
	bathroom stool	1	fair	.50	.50
	Radio aerial		good	1.	1.
	hoe	2	fair	2;	2.
	Rake	1	good	1.50	1.50
	bucksaw	1	fair	4.	4.
	1 wooden typing table	1	fair	1.	1.
	Mimlograph	1	fair		10.
	piano & bench	1	good	175.	175.
	fire place andirons	1 set	good		5;
	oak end table	1	fair		4.
	yellow cedar vanity				
	table	1	good		5.
	kitchen linoleum	1	poor	**	***
	bathroom '' (new)	1	good	9.	9.
	furnace with oil burner	1	poor		75.
				Total	..... \$3896.00

Sitka, Alaska
Perm File → **ALASKA**
PERM. FILE

Excerpt from April 29, 1943 Minutes of the Board Meeting of the
Board of National Missions:

"Report of Administrative Secretary

The Administrative Secretary presented the following matters:

1. Re Church Building at Sitka, Alaska

It will be necessary, as soon as possible after the war, to construct a new building for the church at Sitka, Alaska. This church serves both the Indian and White population of Sitka as well as the student body at the Sheldon Jackson School. The congregation has already secured \$5,000. toward a building fund and it is expected that they will be able to raise an additional \$20,000. The new building should cost from \$30,000. to \$35,000. in addition to furnishings.

The Executive Officers recommend that from the income of the Charles K. Smith Fund the Board agree to provide \$1. for every \$2. that the congregation raises beyond the amount which they now have in hand with the understanding that the maximum appropriation to be made by the Board will be \$10,000. It is understood that no payment will be made under this authorization until after the war and until the construction of the building is actually undertaken.

This was VOTED."

copied May 1945 from Bd. Minutes
FK

C O P Y

Excerpts from letters sent to The Rev. Richard C. Smith, Pursglove, West Va.
(applicant for Alaskan Field) by The Rev. Rotenberry

October 26, 1943

RE SKAGWAY, ALASKA

In normal times the population of Skagway is around 450. At the present time great numbers of service men and construction workers are in the town. I would say that when I left in September there were some 3000 people there. There is also a Roman Catholic church and also a Roman Catholic mission located at Skagway. The mission is for native (Indian) children.

The difference in the cost of things at Skagway and St. Paul - for example - does not seem to be very much. Before the war prices there were much higher than in the states. I have an idea that after the war the same will be true. But there is so much that one does not have to have there that one would buy in the states. A good gardener can raise a great deal that he will eat, such as potatoes, cabbage, chard, rutabagos, turnips, carrots, lettuce (head and leaf), spinach, onions, cauliflower, celery, raspberries - the most delicious you have ever eaten. There are also currants - red, white, and black; gooseberries, and in the mountains there are plenty of blueberries, and some cranberries. With a hot house one can grow a few tomatoes and cucumbers.

The manse is a beauty - the finest manse in all of Alaska. It was finished in 1941. The kitchen is the dream of any woman's heart. There is a General Electric refrigerator, and electric stove. The living room is 28 by 17 feet with hardwood floors, and the large fireplace that you can see by the snap enclosed. The knotty wood is on one side only; the rest of the living room is finished in celotex. There is one bed room downstairs. The basement is concrete and has an electric pump for surface water after the week's washing is done, the heating system is an oil furnace with hot water through out the house. One just has the thermostat to set and phone or ask the transfer man to put oil into the tank - 300 gallons. There is quite a little storage space and the closets are adequate. The house has rock wool insulation throughout.

The manse is just across the street from the church; right in front of it.

Skagway has adequate medical service. The White Pass and Yukon Railway has a hospital, and the doctor has been there since 1926. He has had very good success with operations and seems to know his work. Of course at present, the army has a number of doctors and nurses stationed there, and in an emergency can be called and have been very gracious in the past.

The winter of 1941-42 was a mild one in that the temperature did not fall below 2 degrees above zero. Last winter 20 below was the coldest we had, but the wind is terribly hard and cold. Of course Skagway is right on the water at the head of Lynn Canal, and as a result the climate is a damp one. People who are subject to sinus trouble have difficulty there. The long dark days in winter make it a little hard on the eyes, and because of the lack of sunshine - as the town gets very little of it in winter, people must take vitamin tablets; at least they should do so. I did not take them very regularly, but we gave them to the children.

During the shortest days in winter one would turn on the lights around 3:30 in the afternoon, and it is not really light until 9:00 a.m. But there are not so many of these weeks. The summers are glorious, though the past one was exceptionally cool. The long days in June are great. It is dark around 11:00 p.m. and is quite light at 3:00 a.m.

Skagway is situated right between the mountains. Some of these rise up to 6000 feet and have some snow the year round. There is something about Alaska that is appealing, and one does not care to leave after having been there a while. The only way to leave the town is by boat or train. The isolation in normal times is somewhat hard on one, but there is plenty activity there now.

The people are the most cynical and as critical as any I have ever met. Many of them are fatalists, and there is not much loyalty to the church. The membership is small. They could support the church entirely but they do not do this, and will not have an every member canvass. There are some loyal folk there, too. They are fine and back the church one hundred per cent.

There are very few natives at Skagway. The church membership is primarily white, and they demand the best preaching one is capable of giving as they are well read, having the latest books and magazines, and the library there is far ahead of libraries in many towns the same size. They dress well and have money, as much money is to be made there.

The manse has the following furniture: Living room: three large chairs, one foot stool, davenport, piano, magazine stand, dining room table and chairs - all these are maple and the furniture is new. There is a book case on either side of the fire place as the snap shows. Kitchen: breakfast nook built in, cabinets, electric stove and refrigerator, some dishes and pots and pans - not many though there are some plates and saucers in the basement. The sink is a beauty ~~thought~~ and the windows in the corner look out toward the mountain peaks. Bed room downstairs: bed, dresser and mirror. There is also a toilet and wash basin in this room. There is a good closet. The room to the right of the stairs, that is, upstairs: bed, two dressers, two tables, and a small book rack or case, a rocker. The room to the left: roll top desk with chair, book shelves, and bed, and large closet. Bath room: tub, drawers, toilet, wash basin. At the top of steps there is a book case with glass doors.

The basement: washing machine, electric pump, dark room for developing pictures - this was built by soldiers and they are using it. There is also a ping pong table, a chair which could be used for barber chair (as I cut hair for the men when no barber was available), a work bench, rack for boards, etc. I left our clothes lines.

You will want the most powerful radio you can secure as radio reception is not very good.

One floor lamp in the bed room ~~through~~ ordinarily it would be in the living room.

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RE SKAGWAY, ALASKA

November 27, 1943

Dr. Dahl is good and has had very good success during the years he has been there. Everyone says that he is excellent - so far as we know, he has never lost a baby. Juneau is 99 miles down the channel and there are a number of excellent doctors there. Some folk go to Juneau.

FK
Copied Aug. 1944

see last 2 pgs. - re Rita Alaska
Comm. File
Memorandum for the Executive Committee Re Gift of National
Missions Committee of the Synod of New Jersey:

The following is an extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Board held November 11, 1943:

Dr. William G. Felmeth reported to the Board that the National Missions Committee of the Synod of New Jersey had voted to make a gift to the Board of \$7,500. conditional upon the Board providing at least an equal amount to be made available for the purchase of church sites, this amount to be available for use anywhere throughout the church. Dr. Felmeth turned over to the Treasurer of the Board a check for this amount.

It was VOTED that the check for \$7,500. be received with gratitude and held in Suspense pending further action by the Board; that the question of the policy implied in receiving this gift be referred to the Executive Officers for study and recommendation; and that the Executive Officers also recommend to the Board the sources of funds with which this gift can be matched if it seems wise to do so.

The Executive Officers have considered the question of policy implied in receiving this gift and also the possible source of funds with which the gift can be matched, and would report as follows:

1. It is the judgment of the Executive Officers that for the development of a program for church extension which would be in any sense adequate to the present needs and to needs which can be anticipated in the future, it is both wise and necessary for the Board of National Missions under certain conditions to make grants for the purchase of church sites. Primarily we have in mind new communities or new developments within larger communities where an opportunity is offered for the development of strong churches but where we do not have a present constituency or any developed local financial resources. Recognizing the importance of proper safeguards in order not to retard the development in any new church enterprise of a proper sense of self-reliance and independence, we recommend that the Board approve the policy of making grants for the purchase of church sites upon recommendation of the Executive Officers of the Board, to be approved by the Board.

2. An immediate source from which funds can be secured with which to match the gift made by the Synod of New Jersey is the portion of the Charles K. Smith Fund Income designated for church building purposes. We are advised that under the terms of the Will creating this Fund this would be a proper use of a portion of the income.

With respect to the income of this Fund the Executive Committee of the Board at its meeting held June 21, 1940 took the following action:

"With reference to that portion of the income from the C. K. Smith Fund, now in hand, which is to be used for the erection of National Missions Church Buildings as C. K. Smith Memorials, the Executive Officers recommend as a general policy that whenever a grant is made from this Fund for a particular building a corresponding amount of money be set up as a Reserve Fund to be used for the repair and maintenance of the buildings to which grants from this Fund are made."

E

Grants approved to date from the Income of this Fund total \$57,019.44 including \$176.33 for memorial plaques. There is now in hand toward the Reserve Fund set-up by the above action a total of \$52,858.19.

It is now the judgment of the Executive Officers that a Reserve Fund equal to the total amount of the grants made under this Fund is unnecessarily large. We therefore recommend that the foregoing action be amended and that in its place the Board now approve the setting up of a Reserve Fund which shall be equivalent to 50% of the grants made for church buildings, irrespective of any portion of the fund which may be used for the purchase of church sites, this action to take the place of the previous action and to be retro-active in effect.

If the above recommendation is approved by the Board the amount which would now be required for the Reserve Fund would be \$28,421.56, which would leave an unappropriated and free balance of \$24,436.63. The income received from this Fund for church building purposes during the year ended September 30, 1942 was \$16,630.83.

3. Contingent upon the approval of the foregoing recommendations, we further recommend that the Board receive the gift of the National Missions Committee of the Synod of New Jersey and make it available for the purpose specified, and that in consideration of this gift the Board now authorize the use of \$7,500. a year for three years beginning with the present budget year, the total fund thus created to be available for the making of grants for the purchase of church building sites on the recommendation of the Executive Officers, to be approved by the Board.

re: Sitka
In connection with the foregoing it should be noted that the Board approved a contingent appropriation from the Charles K. Smith Fund Income of not to exceed \$10,000. toward the construction of a new building for the church at Sitka, Alaska, with the understanding that no payment would be made under this authorization until after the war and that the congregation would raise the additional funds necessary to meet the full cost of the building.

It will be noted that the cash now in hand would more than cover the three year appropriation recommended in this memorandum and that the income to be received during the current year would fully protect the Board's contingent authorization for Sitka, Alaska.

"I have your letter of inquiry with regard to Skagway, Alaska. Although another would no doubt differ in his estimation, yet I shall give you what we think of the field.

To answer your important question: The doctor at Skagway, who is the White Pass and Yukon Railroad doctor, has been there since 1926. He has had a very fine record, and as far as I learned, he has never lost a baby. He is a good surgeon and the hospital there is acceptable. Of course there are good doctors at Juneau, and some of the folk up at the north end of the channel go down there for treatment and some of the babies are born there. I do not think you need to have any doubt about that part of the setup.

Just at present, there are a great number of soldiers there and they with the construction workers have added a great deal to the services, both by their attendance and the part they take in the services and other work at the church. As far as the people are concerned, there is not such great loyalty to the Church. There are however some very fine folk, and these you can depend upon.

The manse is new and is the best in all of Alaska. It is furnished, and all you would need to take along, should you go, would be your own personal belongings which you would want, such as clothing, pictures, dishes, silverware, cooking utensils, and the manse needs curtains for the windows, but these could wait until your wife decides what she would want. Of course you would want to take along some of your books. And though the Board might not think it wise, I am of the opinion that you would find use for a car, not to drive to another town as there are no roads there, but as a means of use in making a little extra at times, such as taking passengers to and from the boats. But that is just a guess on my part.

The living room of the manse is large - 28 x 17 feet, with a large fireplace, french doors leading from the entrance, maple furniture and hardwood floors. The kitchen is the dream of any wife's heart. Large corner sink, electric stove, electric refrigerator, and plenty cabinets - all finished in white. Also a breakfast nook. There are two bed rooms upstairs and one downstairs. There is a full basement with oil heat. The cost of oil during the very cold weather will run around \$25.- to \$28.- a month. Our light bill ran from \$5.70 in summer to as high as \$14.- during the winter. Food is some higher there than it is here. There is no rationing.

There is a lot of work to be done around the manse. Sod would be the best, but what will be difficult to obtain. Trees should be set out and flowers planted. And there is need for a small hot house such as other folk there have. The garden will produce well though it is rather small. More raspberries should be set out. Oh, there are a great number things to be done.

When I left in September, the chaplain and I were working together in the services. He would preach at one service; while I would preach at the other, and the next month we would reverse the order, that is I would preach mornings and he evenings. The prayer service is well taken care of by a soldier who is doing the preaching just now while no one is on the field. The chaplain has been called out account illness of wife. There may be another on the field ere this but we have not heard.

The wind is terribly cold at Skagway, but the temperature last winter did not go below 20 below."

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

April 27, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

Bishop John B. Bentley
Bishop's Lodge
Nenana, Alaska

My dear Bishop Bentley:

I have just returned from a fine trip to the territory of Alaska but missed the privilege of a visit with you concerning our common purpose of extending the Gospel of Christ to all of the territory of Alaska. There are so many places where we need to join our forces and our purposes in order to make the Gospel available to all of the people in Alaska that I feel a distinct loss in not having this visit with you. The limitation of time and the weather delays prevented my efforts to get to Nenana.

There were three particular items about which I would like to have talked with you. The first was our building at Nenana where we rejoice in the fact that Christian services are being held by one of your men for the benefit of everyone in the community. Good reports came to me about the work which is being done there and I would like at sometime to have the privilege of visiting it.

An opposite situation was laid before me in Juneau in respect to our work and your Church building in Douglas. The information came to me that you have a Church property there which is not being used for services at the present time. On the other hand, we have a work which is being done there on Sunday afternoons by the Pastor of our native Church in Juneau. He has raised the question as to the possibility of our receiving permission to use your building for these services. It would be very helpful to us and certainly would be a distinct advantage to the community if we might have this permission from the proper sources.

Sometime ago there was a discussion about the possibility of a transfer of your property in Sitka. We understood there were certain reasons of sentiment which prevented this transfer at that time. Meanwhile, we have been informed that there is a project for a suitable memorial

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Page #2

Bishop John B. Bentley

April 27, 1944

to Bishop Rowe to be built in Fairbanks and the center of attention of his outstanding ministry will be drawn from Sitka to Fairbanks. If this is developed we are wondering again about the possibility of the future of St. Peters-by-the-Sea. Do you contemplate the removal of the bodies of the Bishop and his family to Fairbanks in the development of the memorial, and if so have you reached any decision about the future of your work and the property in Sitka?

We certainly do not want to do anything to undermine the heritage and the quality of your work; but we are in need of an extensive program in connection with our Church in Sitka and would welcome any information from you on the situation there.

Sometime in the future I hope to have the privilege of a visit with you. There is much to be done for Alaska and we need to supplement each other as far as possible.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

Y

File of Bily
Put in

RE: THE REV. ARTHUR BILY
and SITKA CHURCH

Excerpt from December 4th, 1944 letter from Leslie Yaw:

"I TRUST THAT REV. BILY has written you of the desire of the Session here
to maintain contact with your office. This was an action taken in Sept.
In that meeting he stated that he might not always be here, but he has never
said more. Should he leave, then we would need help in securing the new
minister for this field:....."

1/11/1945 The Rev. A.L. Roberts phoned that he had a letter from Dr.
North of Cincinnati in reference to The Rev. Mr. Bily coming out of
the Territory. Dr. North has a church in Cincinnati and wanted in-
formation re: Mr. Bily possibly as a candidate.

SITKA, Alaska Presby. Church

2-23-1945 per inf. from minister, The Rev. Arthur N. Bily:

The Trustees are: (capable to carry out the financial duties of our organization)

Mr. Laurance Doig	On the faculty of S.J.S. as assistant engineer. He is a good level headed person whom the trustees have chosen as Chairman of the business meetings.
Mr. John P. Holic	Formerly of the S.J.S. staff, and at present the manager of one of the stores in town. He is the secretary of the Bd. of Trustees
Miss Ora Kuykendall	On the staff of S.J.S. and for many years had been the financial secretary of the Church.
Mr. Jesse Wittmeyer	On the S.J.S. staff and a very good business head. A good steady influence, for the Board, who looks at things realistically.
Mr. Frank Price	Treasurer of the Church, and Elder representative on the Bd. of Trustees
Mr. Samul P. Troutman	- Principal of the Indian School and a person to be counted on for business leadership.

Any of the above people can be referred to for information and cooperation in any way.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR 1943-1944

Current Expenses

Oct. 1, 1943

Cash on hand	.....\$	596.57
Cash Receipts	.....	3,487.27
Disbursements	.....	2,884.79
Surplus	.....	602.48
Cash Balance	.....	1,199.05

Disbursements

Pastor's Salary	.....	\$1,800.00
Janitor	.....	107.00
Attorney Fee	.....	25.00
Manse	.....	133.00
Pension	.....	144.00
S.S. Supply	.....	73.36
Fuel	.....	99.00
Presbytery	.....	30.00
Church Repair	.....	321.60
Music	.....	33.00
SJS Conference	.....	23.37
Revolving Fund	.....	30.00
Tax	.....	64.75

\$ 2,884.79

Benevolences

Oct. 1, 1943

Cash on hand	.....\$	265.74
Cash Receipts	.....	600.05
Disbursements	.....	865.79
Cash Balance	.....	None

Disbursements

Foreign Missions	.....	\$ 105.39
National Missions	.....	55.35
Service Fund	.....	10.00
War Fund	.....	50.00
R. Wagoner	.....	10.00
Cent. Rec. Agency	.....	525.05
SJS Bldg.	.....	100.00

\$ 865.79

PROPOSED BUDGET 1944-1945

Church Maintenance	.....\$	100.00
Pastor's Salary	.....	1,800.00
Pastor's Salary Pension	.....	144.00
Music	.....	75.00
Sunday School	.....	150.00
Social ACTIVITIES	.....	100.00
Per Capita Tax	.....	70.00
Fuel	.....	150.00
Janitor's Salary	.....	115.00
Manse	.....	150.00
Revolving Fund	.....	75.00
Benevolence	.....	350.00
Misc.	.....	100.00

\$ 3,379.00

*via airmail
5/11/45 -
Sitka Church*

MAY 14 1945

Alaska Pky

Sitka, Alaska

May 8, 1945

Rev. J. Earl Jackman
Secretary, Unit of Alaska Work
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Jackman:

At a meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Sitka on May 4th, Rev. Bily resigned so that he could accept a position at Dodge Community House in Detroit. We accepted his resignation effective September 1st with September as vacation with pay.

In seeking another minister the pulpit committee would like to know
(1) If you have any objections if we call a minister from one of the National Mission fields in Alaska (2) If you know of any men in the States who you could recommend to us ? We prefer a minister who does not use tobacco.

We appreciate any help you can give us.

Sincerely yours,

Roland B. Wurster

Roland B. Wurster
Clerk of Session

*File
under Church*

May 15, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. Roland B. Wurster
Sitka, Alaska

My dear Mr. Wurster:

Thank you for your prompt information concerning the resignation of The Rev. Mr. Bily. We regret to lose him but we know that this is the type of work which he has been wanting to do in his future ministry.

In answer to your questions, if your Session finds another minister who is already in National Missions service in Alaska and would want him as your Pastor we shall do our utmost to cooperate with you in filling this request. If this does develop we would want to know at the earliest possible moment because we should then have to find someone else to replace him where he is located now. It has taken us nearly six months to fill these vacancies and we need all the time possible.

If you do not find any minister now already in Alaska to meet your needs, we will then seek one for you in the States. We would want a man who can work in a Church program in connection with the School and do a good job in both. We notice your expressed preference for one who does not use tobacco and agree with you in that preference. We would hope to find one who meets that requirement.

May we ask you to let us know as early as possible concerning our men already in Alaska so we will know in which direction to look for a new minister for you?

It was a pleasure to have fellowship with you in connection with the meeting of the Presbytery and we wish you great success in your consecrated service at Sheldon Jackson School.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

P.S. (added in handwriting by Mr. J.) Let me know the plans and date of the workers conference.

*200
S. C. Church*

June 1, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. Roland B. Wurster
Sitka, Alaska

My dear Mr. Wurster:

We have received information that your Session is considering Mr. Fredsell of Skagway for your Church. I am sure he could do a good work there but I am doubtful whether you ought to consider him.

The Skagway Church paid one-half of Mr. Fredsell's moving expenses which amounted to a considerable sum and if he should leave there so soon I am sure there would be a definite negative reaction. He has stirred up the community as it has not been stirred up for sometime and they are in the midst of a possible building campaign. If he should leave now it would be a great detriment to the Church and community. Besides he has a moral obligation to the Church through their expenditure for him.

May I anticipate anything and also say that it would be detrimental for Mr. Freeman to leave Ketchikan at the present time. He too has been there so short a time and is doing so good a work that he should not be disturbed.

We do not mean to close the door for any good prospect for you in Alaska but we have another one from this end. We have written to The Rev. and Mrs. H. Howard Black of Wappinger Falls, New York about Sitka. Mrs. Black was recently Ada Sherwin, Eastern District Secretary for our Board in women's work. She is the daughter of a minister, is very capable in her own right, and is enthusiastic about the ministry. We do not know her husband as well but if she chose him to be her husband that would be sufficient recommendation for me. He is developing as a preacher and is doing a good work. He is about forty-two years of age. They have indicated an interest in Sitka along with two or three other things and are giving it some consideration. They plan to come to New York on June fifteenth for a conference in regard to it. We hope to have some investigation done before they come so that we can talk more definitely to them.

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Mr. Roland B. Wurster

June 1, 1945

We want the Church to have as much as possible to say about their next minister. On the other hand, we do have to consider our moral obligations in the other fields in southeastern Alaska, and at the same time cooperate with the Church in securing a minister. You get acquainted with The Fredsell's and we shall follow-up with The Black's and see what develops.

Glad to know that Presbytery has you to fall back upon for the Young People's Conference. I am sure you will do a good job.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackson, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JUN 12 1945

Alaska

Sitka, Alaska
June 7, 1945

The Rev. J. Earl Jackman
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Jackman:

Your letter of June 1st has been received and considered by the pulpit committee.

Before your letter arrived, we had already asked Rev. Fredsell of Skagway to consider coming to Sitka; however he was of the same opinion as you in that he felt that he had a moral obligation to remain in Skagway.

The prospects of Rev. and Mrs. Black of Wappinger Falls, New York sounds attractive to us, but as you say we would like more information about them and if possible a picture of them.

Rev. E. E. Knudsen formerly of Haines has been suggested by a few members of the congregation, and Rev. Freeman of Ketchikan mentioned a Rev. Layton Jackson of Omaha. What do you think of these men for Sitka?

Sincerely yours,

Roland B. Wurster

Roland B. Wurster
Clerk of Session

*How much salary?
Pay transportation.
Furniture?*

*1 Bily's Church
Sithka*

June 18, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. Roland B. Wurster
Sitka, Alaska

My dear Mr. Wurster:

Thank you for your recent letters concerning the developments at Sitka.

I have just had an interview with Mr. and Mrs. Black of Wappingers Falls, New York. They are interested and are to give me a final reply on the twenty-first of June but their acceptance is doubtful. However, if they do accept the idea that we will want a picture and full information concerning them for your Session will be considered.

I have written a letter to Layton Jackson of Omaha concerning service in Alaska but have had no reply from him yet.

During a visit with Mr. Knudsen sometime ago, he did indicate that he would like to go to the Church at Sitka but he has so recently been installed in the Church in Chatfield, Minn. that I do not feel he should move at this time. My impression was that his wife's parents wanted their two daughters near them and there was a family pressure for them to stay in Minnesota. We have not written them because of this circumstance.

There are several questions on which the Session should give me some statement. How much salary does the Church propose to pay? Will the Church pay the transportation of the minister and his family from the point of origin in the States to Sitka? What arrangements can be made about furniture for the manse? I understand that the only piece of furniture in the manse in which the Board has an interest is the piano. Most of the furniture belongs to The Bily's. If they bring the furniture back with them the manse will have to be refurnished. Is it possible to purchase the furniture from The Bily's and leave it there or should you consider the purchase of new furniture? All of these questions are involved in securing a minister for the Church.

The salary question is an important one. While we do ^{not} want our ministers to choose their particular places because of the amount of salary involved, yet it is essential. For instance, The Black's are being considered by a Church in the States where the salary is to be \$4000. and manse. We have this problem in securing a competent couple for you. Let us have your

Page #2
Mr. Roland B. Wurster

June 18, 1945

answer as early as possible.

I wrote to Mr. Yaw concerning the possibility and acceptability of having Dr. Everett E. King come up as the leader of the Bible hour in the Worker's Conference. At the same time we would have a rededication of the Princeton-Hall and have Dr. King preach the sermon. We have no assurance that we can get him at that time of the year but would like a reply concerning the arrangements before we approach him.

Kindest personal regards!

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JUN 28 1945

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America
THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Committee on United Promotion

156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

June 27, 1945

Mr. Roland B. Wurster
Sitka
Alaska

Dear Mr. Wurster:

Your request for the use of the Youth Budget film, "Who Gives Himself" on September 15 has been conveyed to us by Dr. Jackman and we are happy to reserve it for your use on that date. We will request the Central Distributing Department to send it early enough so that there will be no doubt about your having it on time.

Would you be good enough to get in touch with Rev. Walter A. Soboleff, Box 2836, Juneau, Youth Budget chairman of Alaska Presbytery, to see if there are other places in Alaska he would like to have the film itinerated before it is returned to the States.

Will you please convey to the Youth Budget Committee of your church our felicitations upon their good record of benevolence giving last year through the Youth Budget Plan, for according to our record, the amount was \$92.56 which represents a splendid increase over the preceding year.

With all good wishes to you, I am

Cordially yours,

Clayton T. Griswold, Secretary
YOUTH BUDGET PLAN

cc Rev. Walter A. Soboleff
✓ Rev. Earl Jackman
Central Distributing Dept.

JUL 5 1945

Sitka, Alaska
June 29, 1945

Dr. J. Earl Jackman
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Jackman:

Your letter of June 18th has been received and considered by the Pulpit committee.

The salary for our minister, as voted by the church officers while you were here, was raised to \$ 2,000. However in addition to this cash salary several valuable perquisites are also given the minister including free electricity and water and the privilege of buying fuel oil, groceries, and meat at cost from Sheldon Jackson School. The grocery saving is, at least, 20%, and the electricity and water about \$150. a year. The church will pay the transportation of the minister and his family from point of origin in the States to Sitka. (The farther west the better for us.)

The Session has arranged to purchase most of the Bily furniture. The manse will be furnished except for dishes, cooking utensils, and curtains. But the rugs are old.

When Rev. Webster left Sitka five years ago, the Sitka congregation was interested in securing Rev. Knudsen for its minister then, but events did not work out that way. We have had our eye on him along time. So even though Chatfield has recently installed him we would like him to know about our vacancy. Mr. Yaw is going to Iowa soon and might visit Rev. Knudsen in Chatfield.

Sincerely yours,

Roland B. Wurster
Roland B. Wurster
Clerk of Session

*Dr J wrote
Knudsen
7/5/45*

Sitka Church

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.

July 5, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Edwin E. Knudsen
Chatfield, Minnesota

Dear Ed:

You may or may not have heard that the Church at Sitka will be vacant as of September first. The Session has asked me to cooperate with them in seeking a minister.

At one time, you expressed an interest in going to the Sitka Church and I believe when Jackson Webster left they expressed an interest in you but events did not work out at that time for you to get together. The Church has now expressed an interest in you again. I have raised the question whether you may want to move since you have been in Chatfield for so short a period of time but they feel that you ought to be approached on this proposition.

The Church is proposing a salary of \$2000. and furnished manse. You would have free electricity and water and the privilege of buying fuel oil, groceries, and meat at cost from Sheldon Jackson School. The grocery saving is estimated at 20% and the electricity and water about \$150. a year. The Church would pay the transportation of the minister and his family from the point of origin to Sitka.

The Session has arranged to purchase most of The Bily's furniture and the manse will be furnished except for dishes, kitchen utensils, and curtains. It is pointed out that the rugs are old but useable.

Mr. Yaw is coming to Iowa soon and he may try to get in touch with you in Chatfield. Meanwhile, we would appreciate having a line from you indicating your reaction to this approach. If you are interested we will follow it further. If you feel you cannot consider it we should know as early as possible in order to proceed with some other possibility for them.

Hope your work is going well. Dr. Chappel reported a fine visit with you at General Assembly.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

JUL 24 1945

Alaska

Sitka, Alaska
July 20, 1945

Dr. J. Earl Jackman
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

The names of two ministers have been suggested to us as possibilities for the Sitka pulpit. Rev. Webster who is coming to Wrangell wrote saying that Dr. Hugh M. Jones of the Presbyterian Conference, Zepher Point, Nevada is definitely interested in coming to Alaska. Dr. Jones who was the pastor of the Westminster Church of San Jose has recovered from a nervous breakdown and would like an entirely different kind of a pastorate. Rev. Webster writes very enthusiastically of Dr. Jones.

Mr. Latta, our new carpenter teacher, has suggested a friend of his, Rev. Ellwood B. Hunter of Santa Paula, California. Mr. Hunter has also expressed a desire to come to Alaska. I have written to neither of these men, but prefer that you act as our contact man if you think either of these ministers might be the pastor for us.

In our Workers' School in the fall Rev. Prouty is going to teach a course for the lay workers. The Board of Christian Education suggested the book "The Local Church" by Dr. Beaven. Mr. Prouty would also like to use The Presbyterian Plan Book for ministers. Do the lay workers have this book, or do we have to order it for them?

I should like to have the woman, who you are securing for us, not only to teach a course on methods for Missionary Societies, but also a course on the Presbyterian Church.

The film for our Sitka church "Who Gives Himself" has already arrived. We are going to use it for our Youth Budget canvass. This is excellent service.

Sincerely yours,

Roland B. Wurster
Roland B. Wurster
Clerk of Session

Put in Ch

July 24, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. Roland B. Wurster
Sitka, Alaska

My dear Mr. Wurster:

I am leaving for vacation and want to catch up on our effort rather than progress in getting a minister for the Sitka Church.

We have written to Mr. Knudsen at your suggestion and have had a reply from him yesterday. He says it has always been one desire of his heart since he has known Alaska to serve the Sitka Church but each time there has been a vacancy there he has been so tied up that he was unable to respond to the call. He now feels that he has entered his present Church so recently that he cannot leave it. However, he hopes some day to return to Alaska.

✓ The Rev. Jackson Webster wired us that Dr. Jones was interested in Alaska and gave us his address. Immediately, we airmailed him an information form asking him to complete it and indicate his interest in Alaska. To date we have not received the completed form. If and when it comes we will forward the information to you so that your Committee may consider it before action is taken.

We shall send out today a similar information form to the Rev. Ellwood B. Hunter of Santa Paula asking him to indicate his interest and complete the form.

The Rev. L. V. Osborne, Pastor of the Markham Memorial Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, Mo. was in Saturday morning for a special conference about work in Alaska. I talked to him about the Sitka Church but he will have difficulty over the matter of salary. He is now getting \$3600. a year and temporarily his wife is on their Staff and getting a salary. He said they had considered the possibility of cutting their income but felt they needed \$2400. and furnished manse at least.

We are still working in your behalf but have not had much success. As the first of September nears, we are becoming more and more concerned about it but seem to have so little that is definite to report to you.

July 24, 1945

For the Worker's School in the Fall, we have followed your suggestion of asking Dr. Stocker to go but he was so tied up with Board representatives on his field at that time that he cannot get away much as he would like to have this opportunity. Our next possibility is Dr. Horace W. Ryburn the western district secretary for Foreign Missions. Dr. Ryburn was formerly on the faculty of a Theological Seminary in Siam and we understand is to return to Siam after the war to be President of this School. He is deeply spiritual, could conduct your Bible course very well, could be used for Vesper's speaker, and at the same time fill your people with the message from Foreign Missions. He has been away from his office for the meetings of Western Synods and we have not had a reply from him yet.

If Dr. Ryburn cannot come, the time is getting so short, that we will have difficulty finding a man. In spite of the fact that you feel his presence would not bring highest results, I turn again to the possibility of Dr. King being your Bible leader. We know he wants to return to Alaska but we do not know if he can get away at the time of the conference. We have not said anything to him yet pending other developments. We do not want to insist upon him but feel that this may be our only and best possibility.

We have not made any progress in getting a woman to teach the course on Methods for Missionary Societies. I shall take this up immediately with Miss Taylor who is in charge of Women's Work and see if it is possible to fill this request with the provision that the one who comes shall teach a course on Presbyterian Church. I believe it would be better, however, to have a man to teach the course on Presbyterian Church, ~~not~~ particularly an ordained man. There is a course for this in the Seminary and our minister's are better qualified than our women workers for this particular course.

Glad to know that you have received the film Who Gives Himself. It is refreshing that we get good service in some things.

All of our workers in Alaska, lay and ordained, are supposed to have the Plan Book. It might be well for us to send some extra copies for this school. If you will let us know how many should be secured, we will ask the United Promotion Office to send them direct to the School. The new Plan Book should be out during August.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JBJ:FK

P.S. Since writing this letter we have been in touch with Miss Taylor. She is the only one of our women secretaries who seems to have an open schedule for October. She has been pushing the campaign for funds for the new building at Sheldon Jackson and it seems fitting that she should be the one to come up for the Worker's Conference. I believe Miss Taylor could do a good job in the course of Methods in Women's Societies and could do the job on our Presbyterian Church but I still feel this had better be done by an ordained minister.

File
File
File

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

The Rev. Henry D. Jones
Dodge Christian Community House
6201 Farr Avenue
Detroit 11, Michigan

My dear Mr. Jones:

In a letter received from Dr. Jackman this morning,
he suggested that we write you asking that you forward
the \$100.00 from your budget to The Rev. Mr. Bily, and we
shall make an accounting later.

We are also forwarding our share for his travelling
expenses and shall ask him for an itemized statement of
expenditures after they have arrived in the States.

Sincerely yours,

Frieda Koerner, Secretary to
J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JES:FK

P

Y

Sitka Church

September 11, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. Roland B. Wurster
Sitka, Alaska

My dear Mr. Wurster:

In response to your request, we find now that we have practically all of the information material concerning Messrs. Hunter, Jones, and Neal that we have been seeking.

I have been waiting to gather this all together before sending this to you. We are forwarding the entire group with the request that you will return them all to us when you are finished with them.

It has not been my privilege to have a personal conference either with Mr. Hunter or Dr. Jones. Last week at the meeting of the National Staff in Chicago, I interviewed several people from California who knew these men personally and will forward the following impressions:

Dr. Jones' work has been outstanding and surprise was expressed that he would be interested in Alaska or that we could take him for the Sitka Church. He has had a partial nervous breakdown and has taken the position of Supervisor of the Tahoe Conference Grounds in order to give him an opportunity to be out of doors and recuperate. Apparently his health is rapidly being restored and he is now ready for a pastorate again. You will recall that The Rev. Jackson L. Webster recommended him highly. Of course, Mr. Webster knows the Sitka situation and ought to know whether Dr. Jones would fit in it.

The information which I have on Mr. Hunter is good. He is a younger man, has energy and ability, and is conservative in his theology and preaching. Through his correspondence he seems to have a fine spirit.

About two weeks I had a visit with Samuel Neal and his wife. Mr. Neal has had only one charge in his ministry and he is much beloved by his people. The Executive of Pittsburgh Presbytery says that Sam Neal is a great soul and has a wonderful spirit about him.

Page #2
Mr/ Roland B. Wurster September 11, 1945

He is not an outstanding preacher but has a message which is sincere and conservative in theology. He is a tireless worker and tries to love people into the Kingdom. His picture does not indicate a slight deformity which he has in his facial expression. When I saw him I was a bit shocked to see that he suffered a burn sometime ago. The upper point of his right ear is shortened because of this experience and the skin on his face is a bit drawn. When he smiles the wrinkles indicate a stretched skin. After visiting with him a few moments I forgot this difficulty in the pure charm of his smile. His wife is a lovely woman and gives you the impression of a wonderfully fine Christian character. Together they make a great team in the ministry.

It would be my recommendation to you that you examine all this information carefully and return it to us with an indication of which one of these three men you might make your first choice, and which your second choice. We will then go to work on it as early as possible and see what we can do toward filling your choice.

Thank you for giving me the information concerning the requirements for Miss Taylor and Dr. Welch. They are both anticipating this visit very much and I am sure will do all in their power to make a real contribution toward the success of the Conference.

We are all praying that this venture may mean much in the life of our people. I am hoping that we are on the road of a new and better way for deepening the spiritual life and advance of our work in all of Alaska.

Kindest personal greeting to all of you!

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

Enc. Information Forms for

Rev. Hugh Morris Jones

Rev. Elwood Bruce Hunter

Rev. Samuel Galbraith Neal

Sitka Church

OCT 4 1945

*10/4/45
J. J.*

Sitka, Alaska
September 27, 1945

Dr. J. Earl Jackman
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

Thank you for sending the reports on Messrs. Hunter, Jones, and Neal. The pulpit committee has considered the reports carefully. A congregational meeting has been set for October 6th to select a first and second choice as you suggested. We will wire you immediately the decision of the congregation.

Arrangements for the Christian Workers' and Homemakers' are practically complete. We are hoping for an enrollment of at least 30. Presbytery is also trying to make plans to have a short meeting here too, but these plans have not fully materialized yet.

We surely appreciate the good work that you have done for us in planning for the Adult school, and in getting us a pastor.

Sincerely yours,

Roland B. Wurster

Roland B. Wurster

*Delivered
October 10, 1945*

October 10, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. Roland B. Wurster
Sitka, Alaska

My dear Mr. Wurster:

Thank you for your letter of September 27th and telegram of October 7th. Both of these communications have been received in the absence of Dr. Jackman who is away on a field trip. A copy of your letter was sent to him and we wired the information to him contained in your telegram. This morning's mail brought a letter with instructions that we should write The Rev. Hugh M. Jones, and we are enclosing a copy of this letter for your information. We certainly hope that The Rev. Mr. Jones will accept this call.

We are thinking of you all very particularly as the time approaches for the opening of the Christian Worker's Conference. We hope and pray that many blessings will be received during these meetings and in the days following.

Sincerely yours,

Frieda Koerner, Secretary to
J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
FK Unit of Work in Alaska

Enc. copy The Rev. Mr. Jones' letter

*File
S. J. Jackman*

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

October 10, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Hugh M. Jones
Zephyr Point, Nevada

My dear Mr. Jones:

It must have seemed a long time since we sought information about you for the Church at Sitka. Handling these matters in a democratic way at such a distance means the lapse of considerable time but now we have the results from the congregation.

The congregation of the Sitka Church has authorized me to invite you to become the Pastor of the Church as soon as you can make arrangements to reach Sitka. This decision has been reached after full consideration of your information form and all inquiries we made about you. The people have high hopes that under your leadership the Church and community would make great spiritual and material advance.

They promise a salary of \$2000. and furnished manse with their part of the pension payments and one month's vacation. Along with this provision would be the privilege of buying your fuel oil, groceries, and meat at cost from Sheldon Jackson School. There is also free electricity and water. The grocery saving is about 20% and the electricity and water about \$150. a year.

They agree to pay your travel expenses to the field but make no provision for return expenses.

We should say further that the manse is furnished with the exception of dishes, cooking utensils, and curtains. The rugs are old.

This call to Sitka presents a great opportunity and challenge to service with the Whites and Indians of the town and, in cooperation with the administration of the School, among the students. We trust that it comes to you under the Providence of God and your response will be given under the Guidance of His Spirit. Our office and the Church will be anxiously waiting for your answer.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK
CC Mr. Roland B. Wurster, Sitka, Alaska

Dictated but not signed
by Dr. Jackman

Sitka

October 30, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. Roland B. Wurster
Sitka, Alaska

My dear Mr. Wurster:

Dr. Jackman left yesterday on a field trip but before leaving things developed which should be brought to your attention. In the rush of matters to be attended to, he did not have an opportunity to write you personally but suggested that this letter be sent in his absence.

We have received word from The Rev. Hugh M. Jones that due to the health of some of the members of his family it would be inadvisable for him to accept the call to the Church at Sitka. He mentioned that he would contact you directly and you, no doubt, have heard from The Rev. Mr. Jones by this time.

Before considering your second choice, The Rev. Elwood B. Hunter, further Dr. Jackman would like to submit another name to you and your officers as a possible prospect. Recently while attending the meeting of the Synod of Kansas, Dr. Jackman met The Rev. Warren D. Ives with whom we had been in communication about Alaskan service. Dr. Jackman was deeply impressed with Mr. Ives and feels that he would make a real contribution to our program in Alaska. Then on Sunday a paper was brought to his attention and in scanning it he found an article written by Mr. Ives on the Westminster Fellowship in his Presbytery. This strengthened his first impression of Mr. Ives and he feels that he would be well fitted to work with the youth of the community and the school. We wired Mr. Ives to find out if he would consider a call to the Sitka Church if the way were opened. He replied that he would give it careful consideration and asked for further details. We have written him giving the conditions of service as to salary, travel expenses to the field, manse furnishings, etc. as outlined in your recent letter to us. We are enclosing for your further information Mr. Ives' application form which he has completed and which we shall ask you to return to us when you are finished with it. Then, too, you will find enclosed a copy of the Presbyterian Young People's quarterly which has in it the article by Mr. Ives which is referred to above.

We shall await further definite word from you as to whether you would consider Mr. Ives as a possible candidate for the Sitka Church and then will contact him again in accordance with your instructions. If, on the other hand, you want us to correspond with your second choice, The Rev. Mr. Hunter, we shall be glad to carry out your wishes in this matter.

Cordially yours,

Frieda Koerner, Secretary to
J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

FK
2 Encls.: Mr. Ives Preliminary Inf. Form & Sept. 1945 issue of Presbyterian Young People

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1201

NOV 2 1945

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

.EAB170 30 NL PD=SITKA ALASKA 1

1945 NOV 2 AM 6 47

DR J EARL JACKMAN=

ROOM 711 156 FIFTH AVE NYK=

JONES REFUSED CALL SENT FOLLOWING WIRE TO HUNTER SANTA PAULA
CALIF QUOTE SITKA CONGREGATION CALLS YOU TO THEIR PULPIT
DETAILS BEING SENT BY JACKMAN HOPE TO HAVE FAVORABLE REPLY
SOON=

ROLAND B WURSTER.

11/2/45 Rev. Hunter
wrote Mr. Wurster and letter to
" Mr. Wurster
sent M.L. to Dr. J on fol. re: the
matter

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

Letter to

November 2, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. Roland B. Wurster
Sitka, Alaska

My dear Mr. Wurster:

Thank you for your telegram which has just been received.

Dr. Jackman is away from the office on a field trip. However, before starting he left instructions as to what should be done as things developed. In accordance with your telegram and these instructions, we have sent a letter to The Rev. Mr. Hunter a copy of which is enclosed for your information. We shall contact you further when we hear from Mr. Hunter.

May we assure you that these matters will be brought to Dr. Jackman's attention just as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Frieda Koerner, Secretary to
J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
FK Unit of Work in Alaska

Enc. CC letter to Mr. Hunter-11/2/1945

On the 26th
Miss Gladfelter
Dr. Jackman

December 26, 1945

Thank you for sharing with us the letter from Leslie Yaw in regard to the new Church at Sitka. If they can complete this program it probably will be the most economical method of securing a building which will be adequate for an advanced program through the Church. It was not my privilege to see the USO building when I was there so can give no information concerning the adequacy of the building for the use of the Church.

My reaction is that they ought to have something in rather definite form before we can present it to the Board for assistance. The Building Aid office shall ask for definite plans and specifications along with pictures and a specific proposal. They will probably know more after their congregational meeting. We shall await developments.

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

Att: 12/17/45 letter from Mr. Yaw with
newspaper clipping and USO Bldg. diagram

Three folders

MEMORANDUM

January 4, 1946

To - - Miss Voss
From - Dr. Jackman

We are presenting to the Cabinet the request of the Sitka Church that the \$10,000. already made available for the new Church at Sitka should be allowed to the Church for the renovation of the USO building if they buy it. If and when this change is made this will mean that the Church will be moved away from the campus and should be a center of congregational activity for the town as well as the school.

Following this development, I think it would be well for us to consider the purchase of a house in the vicinity of the Church as a manse. If this is approved by the Board it will then make available the present manse for the use of the school and, of course, the construction of the new house for Mr. Yaw will make another house available for the School. In light of this, I am wondering if the proposed house is necessary for the campus. However, this is not my problem but I did want you to know my thinking in regard to the transfer of the congregation from the campus to the location of the Church. We shall have to await developments before anything definite will be known about it.

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JES:FK

Sitka File
Term File
MEMORANDUM

January 4, 1946

To - - Cabinet of Missionary Operation
From - Dr. J. Earl Jackman - Unit of Work in Alaska
Re: - Sitka, Alaska Church

On November 11, 1943 the Board took action making a grant of \$10,000. from the Charles K. Smith Fund Income for the Sitka Church on condition that the Church raise a similar amount toward a new Church building. Nothing has been done toward the new building because of the inability to get materials. Meanwhile, the congregation has proceeded in moderate fashion of adding to their building ~~is~~ looking forward to the time of a new Church.

During the war period a very fine USO building was built in Sitka. It cost \$82,000. and is now to be abandoned because the war program is practically finished at Sitka. The building is for sale and the congregation of the Sitka Church proposes to buy it. They are under the impression that the USO is seeking approximately one-half the construction value for their buildings. However, inside information leads our people to believe that an offer of \$5,000. might not be rejected. The congregation feels that if necessary they might double that offer and they are thinking in terms of \$11,500. They have in their own building fund in the neighborhood of \$6000. toward this purchase.

It will be necessary to renovate the assembly room in the USO building as a sanctuary. This would make their sanctuary about 48' x 60' and would require a considerable expenditure to develop an atmosphere of worship. Not much change will be necessary in the rest of the interior for Sunday school purposes. They would propose to build a tower and perhaps install a bell on the building. Both Miss Ann Elizabeth Taylor and Dr. Keeler from our Staff have seen this building and feel that it would be well for the congregation to develop this project for their House of Worship.

The question which the congregation asks now is whether the Board will permit them to use all the special grant up to \$10,000. for the completion of the building as a Church if and when the congregation decides this is the thing that should be done. We would ask the Board to grant their request.

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary

JBJ:FK Unit of Work in Alaska

Excerpt from January 17, 1946 Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting of Bd.:

"On November 11, 1943 the Board authorized a grant of \$10,000. from the Charles K. Smith Income for the building of a church at Sitka, Alaska on the condition that the church raise a similar amount. It is now proposed to purchase a building built by the U.S.O. at a cost of \$82,000. which is for sale and which can probably be secured at a very moderate price.

"It is recommended that the grant of \$10,000. authorized by the Board be made available toward the purchase and renovation of this building on condition that at least an equal amount be provided by the church."

JAN 7 1946

Sheldon Jackson School

Sitka, Alaska

owned and operated by
Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

Alaska

Leslie Yaw, Superintendent

January 4, 1946

Dr. J. Earl Jackman
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Earl:

Your wire of the 2nd came yesterday afternoon. The developments growing out of the congregational meeting on New Year's Eve are:

1. From the Clerk's records:

- A. "A motion that the moderator (Elder, Clarence Rands) be authorized to appoint a committee to make an offer of purchase of the USO building to the Government when the opportunity comes, not to exceed \$15,000, was seconded and carried."
- B. "A motion that the Clerk (Elder, Roland Wurster) write to the Board of National Missions asking for a grant of \$10,000 to help purchase and remodel the USO building, was seconded and carried."

2. From the Finance Committee: (Members: Moderator Rands, elders Price, Wurster, Yaw, Deacon Mrs. Smith)

"A motion to offer the Government an initial bid of \$7,500 through Mayor E. M. Goddard was seconded and carried."

The action under 1. above was taken after lengthy discussion which involved several possibilities for remodeling and developing the USO building as a complete plant offering worship, church school, social and recreational facilities for the First Presbyterian Church of Sitka. Also discussion on the use of parts of the building for certain non-liquor community service groups as: The Sitka Women's Club, Rotary Club, Boy Scouts, Sitka Statehood Association, etc. Expression was given on the use of the building by students of the developing Sheldon Jackson Junior College in years to come.

Much expression was given on the subject of financing. The results indicated the faith of the congregation in being able to carry increased costs of light, heat, etc. The congregation did not feel equal to the burden of the salary for a Pastor's assistant who might live in the building and have charge of the wide program which might be developed for every day in the week.

JAN 7 1946

Dr. Earl Jackman - 2

The action under 2. above was taken the same evening as that of the congregational meeting, with Mayor Goddard present with the members of the Finance Committee. Mayor Goddard is a key man in the local picture and it was his advice to make the initial offer \$7,500. He thought this might best be made informally by himself to Mr. Earl McGinty, Government representative in Juneau. Mayor Goddard's letter has gone to Mr. McGinty, but no reply is anticipated for some days yet. Mayor Goddard felt it advisable to offer at least \$7,500 (this is the maximum cash amount available from the Sitka congregation) as he knew of another group willing to make an offer of \$12,000. merely for salvage purposes. It is hoped that the Government will accept a smaller offer which would insure continued church and community use of the building.

Regarding your request for an exact plan, this is not possible at the moment, since the whole idea is still being considered and weighed as to possibilities. From informationⁱⁿ this letter and from that in my letter to Miss Voss dated December 17, these possibilities shape up somewhat as follows:

A complete church plant at a cost not to exceed \$25,000. It is estimated that for a cost of between seven and ten thousand dollars remodeling would provide a sanctuary seating 350 people and some other alterations. Procurement of the property may be as low as \$7500, or as much as \$15,000, making a total cost considered here, ~~as stated above~~, not to exceed \$25,000.

The facilities of the building and the need of the community indicate possibilities of developing a full time program of activities running throughout each week with much emphasis on work for young people, including the students of Sheldon Jackson, Sitka Public School, Government School, young married couples, etc. The kitchen, dining hall, snack bar, and spacious lobby would be available by arrangement not only to groups of our own church but to other non-liquor groups of the community.

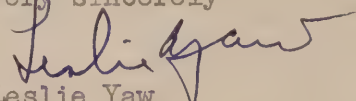
Our congregation feels it can meet increased costs of operation and up to one half the procurement costs. We feel that it would be a very much worth while investment for the Board of National Missions to subsidize our new program by providing up to one half of the procurement costs and a trained worker to be in charge of the building working under the minister and session.

Enclosed are a number of snapshots and enlarged prints showing the USO building. As these are loaned by various individuals who request their return we must ask that they be sent back to us after they have served their purpose in New York. One of the large pictures shows the far end of the main floor which in the development of remodeling plans would probably become the worship center with space approximately 48 x 60.

Dr. Earl Jackman - 3

Speaking personally after having struggled since 1935 with the problem of developing a new church plant for Sitka, this present possibility appears as entirely feasible, provided the Government does not insist on a purchase price beyond our means, and since the site is one half mile off the Sheldon Jackson campus in the heart of a fine residential district, the new church plant would be entirely a thing in itself and our church would no longer be identified in the community as the Sheldon Jackson or mission church.

Very sincerely


Leslie Yaw

LY:h

P. S. Question may arise as to location of the manse. For the present it is felt that our minister should live in the manse which we now have. If the plans of the future develop to the point of a new manse near the new church plant, ample grounds would be available, for the transfer of the USO building would include a large plot of ground on which two or three houses might be built.

Dr. Morse

Unit of Work in Alaska - Miss Koerner

January 10, 1946

Sitka, Alaska statement for

Jan. 19th meeting of Cabinet of Miss'y Operation

Before Dr. Jackman left the office last week for a field trip, he dictated the attached statement for Cabinet of Missionary Operation action in reference to Sitka, Alaska. He suggested that if a letter came from Sitka regarding the new Church project it should be submitted to you for counsel so that any necessary changes could be made in the attached statement before it is presented to the Cabinet.

Do you think the attached letter from Mr. Wurster of Sitka changes the statement in any way? I shall be glad to make whatever changes you suggest.

Unit of Work in Alaska

FK [unclear] per

Att.: Statement re: Sitka for Cabinet of Missionary Operation

" January 2nd letter from Mr. Roland B. Wurster of Sitka, Alaska

JAN 7 1946

Return to ↓

Sitka, Alaska
January 2, 1946

Dr. J. Earl Jackman
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

The \$75,000. USO building in Sitka is being put up for sale by the Federal government. Our church has studied the situation and a majority of the congregation decided at a meeting on December 31st to extend an offer of purchase, not to exceed \$15,000. , to the government. In consultation with Mr. Goddard, city mayor, we decided through him to extend a first informal offer of \$7,500. for the building when it becomes available. The church has enough cash on hand to pay the \$7,500. if this amount is accepted.

At the same meeting the congregation voted to petition the Board of National Missions for a grant of \$10,000. to apply on the purchase, if needed, and for remodelling the building into a suitable sanctuary with adjoining rooms. This action was taken to supersede the request made when you were here last spring, asking for a grant of \$10,000. to help build a new church building. Will you please convey this request to the proper authorities ?

Miss Taylor, on her recent visit to Sitka, was entertained in the USO building so she will be able to explain its possibilities as a church plant to you.

The Rev. Elwood Hunter and his family are arriving tomorrow on the S.S. Denali, and we are all looking hopefully forward to his leadership.

Respectfully yours,

Roland B. Wurster

Roland B. wurster
Clerk of Session

Sitka Church

January 21, 1946

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. Roland B. Wurster
Sitka, Alaska

My dear Mr. Wurster:

Thank you for your prompt reply giving us the necessary information which we need from your Church concerning the possible purchase of the USO building and the request to the Board of National Missions to apply the grant formerly made for the renovation of the proposed building.

We presented the information and request to the Board at its meeting on January 17, 1946 and the Board took the following action:

"On November 11, 1945 the Board authorized a grant of \$10,000. on the Charles K. Smith Fund Income for the building of a Church at Sitka, Alaska on the condition that the Church raise a similar amount. It is now proposed to purchase a building built by the USO at a cost of \$82,000. which is for sale and which can probably be secured at a very moderate price.

"It is recommended that the grant of \$10,000. authorized by the Board be made available toward the purchase and renovation of this building on condition that at least an equal amount be provided by the Church."

If it seems to be the judgement of your congregation that this is the thing which the Church should do then the Board would fulfill the above action in helping the congregation toward the purchase and renovation of the USO building for a Church home.

It is the judgement of the administration of the work in Alaska under our Board and I am sure it will be the requirement of our Property Office that the Church submit to us the final plans for the renovation before the \$10,000. will be paid. We are in sympathy with the great longing of the Sitka congregation to have an adequate building

Page 12
Mr. Roland B. Wurster

January 21, 1946

and the requirement of the submission of these plans is only a part of our stewardship to the Church for the use of these funds. We hope it may be possible for this to come to consummation at an early date so that the congregation will have a more adequate Church home.

We are glad to know that The Hunters have arrived and we trust that their ministry will bring a great blessing to the campus and the community of Sitka. I have not met them yet but will look forward to that privilege in April.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

Handwritten: 11-22-46 - 11-22-46

FEB 5 1946

Handwritten: W. B. Wurster

Sitka, Alaska
January 31, 1946

Dr. J. Earl Jackman
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

The motion pictures that you arranged to send to us
for use in Sitka last fall came through in such fine
shape that I wonder if you could not assist us again ?

For use during February or early March I would like to
have the transparencies:

522N Among the Plaza People or
Pedro, a Country Lad of Brazil

For a showing May 21st
242F Panchita or
241F Pedro's New World.

I thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours

Roland B. Wurster
Roland B. Wurster

February 5, 1946

Request from Sitka, Alaska for transparencies on Brazil

We have just received a request from Mr. Roland B. Hurster, Sitka, Alaska for the following transparencies:

For use during February or early March - 2-13-46 For. Bd. report sending
522# Among the Plaza People or these out 2/14/46
Pedro, A Country Lad of Brazil

For use on May 21st -
212F Panchita or
211F Pedro's New World.

We have sent motion picture film up to Alaska before and it has arrived and been returned in good time and shape. We would suggest first class mail and you should allow two weeks time from New York for mailing purposes. We shall appreciate a report from you that this will be arranged.

Unit of Work in Alaska

TR **POR**

Sitka Church

MAR 1 1946

*Concord
Hog...*

Sitka, Alaska
February 16, 1946

Dr. J. Earl Jackman
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Sitka has authorized me to write to you that it accepts the offer of the Board of National Missions to grant the Sitka Church \$10,000. for the purchase and the renovation of the U.S.O. building, provided that the we raise \$10,000. and submit the plans of renovation to you.

The negotiations with the government are proceeding slowly, but we will keep you informed of any progress. We appreciate your help , and thank you for it.

Sincerely yours,

Roland B. Wurster

Roland B. Wurster
Clerk of Session

Re: Church

February 25, 1946

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. Roland Wurster
Sheldon Jackson School
Sitka, Alaska

My dear Mr. Wurster:

I had hoped to have a visit with Mr. Yaw in Seattle concerning the purchase of the USO building at Sitka for the Church. His tragedy took him away from Seattle before I arrived. However, I did go to interview Mr. Durkee of the Federal Works Agency about the property. Mr. Durkee said that the \$15,000. was not a rock bottom price but he could not expect that we would get the property for any less than that unless someone else refused to bid on it.

Mr. Durkee also indicated that the community or some community organization would have a first choice of priority on the purchase. The Church as a non-profit organization would come in third place on this. He advised that the Church work through the town organization to get a preference in the bid.

As I wrote you before, the Board took an action making available the \$10,000. from the Board to match a similar amount from the Church. We had a report that the Church had available \$7500. to put into the building. If the price is \$15,000. I think our Board would be willing to match the \$7500. from the Church for the purchase. The Board would then hold the other \$2500. until such time as the Church is able to meet that amount for renovation, or would make available a portion of it as the congregation produces its portion for changes. It would be understood, of course, that the \$7500. from the Board for the purchase would be in the form of a first mortgage on the property.

I am coming up for Presbytery and hope to spend the preceding week in Alaska. During that time, I would like to spend a couple of days in Sitka getting better acquainted with the whole situation. It has not been my privilege yet to meet the Hunters and I want to meet them and talk with the officers about plans for the new Church.

Kindest personal regards and greetings to all.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

CC: The Rev. Elwood B. Hunter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sitka, Alaska

JUN 13 1946

May 21, 1946

Mr. L. R. Durkee, Division Engineer
Federal Works Agency
Bureau of Community Facilities
Division No. 8
511 Alaska Building
Seattle 4, Washington

Dear Sir:

Your letter of April 26, 1946 written to Mr. Leslie Yaw, Superintendent of Sheldon Jackson School, (PROPERTY: CLT; hb; Project: 50-146-f; Recreation Facilities; Sitka, Alaska) has been referred to me for reply.

You stated in your letter that "since the preference requirement is directly related to the degree in which the facility is made available to the people in the community, we would suggest you include in detail the purpose for which you expect to use the facility and the extent to which the facility will be available to the people in the community".

As you talked with Mr. Leslie Yaw, January 24, 1946; he likely told you that the purchase of the Recreation Building has been all along dependent upon a grant which we may obtain from the Board of National Missions. This grant can only be obtained by being able to produce a clear title to the property without "any strings attached".

Because of this stipulation by the Board of National Missions it is essential that it be understood that the Recreation Building, if purchased by the First Presbyterian Church of Sitka, is to become the place of worship of this congregation and for the building of christian character, and only those things that will contribute to these primary purposes are to be carried on upon the premises.

As a church we cannot rent the premises to groups that might want to use it for it would then become income property and taxable. The Session, which is the governing body in Presbyterian churches, would at all times determine the proper use of the facilities.

We will, however, promise that we will not be neglectful of our opportunities to use the premises for the betterment of the community as a whole.

1. In the first place our membership is made up of 278 members (160 resident, 118 nonresident) which in a community of 1800 to 2200 is roughly from 8% to 12% of the whole population.

2. The membership is supplemented by the majority of the Student Body of Sheldon Jackson School, numbering approximately 150 students, who worship with us but are not members of this congregation and are not included in the membership figure.

3. As a congregation we are interested in the welfare of the young people in the community at large. This is shown by the fact that the only Scout Troop in town is sponsored by this church. The boys making up the troop are from eight different denominations and churches in the community.

4. The only girls group in the town is also sponsored by this congregation, the Campfire Girls. The 4H is organized in town with both boys and girls, but the above organizations deal with boys and girls separately.

5. A Young People's Christian Endeavor Society meets in the pastor's home for lack of a better place and counts in its membership more than 20% of the young people in the local High School.

6. We intend, as much as possible, to make the premises of the Recreation Building if they are purchased the meeting place of the young people of the community. A soda fountain can easily be installed and sandwich counter where the young people can enjoy fellowship in a good environment.

Thank you for your interest and courtesy,

Yours very truly,

Minister

Copy to Dr. Earl Jackman
Board of National Missions

Sitka Church
Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.

July 2, 1946

Mr. Roland B. Wurster
Sherry Ross Hall
Eugene, Oregon

My dear Mr. Wurster:

We realize you are away from home and cannot take any action upon the enclosed message but we would like to have you be thinking of it and see what can be done when you return to Sitka in the Fall.

Recently we had some small salary increases for our ministers in the Territory and at present we do not have any fully qualified minister in any of our mission churches who is receiving less than \$2150. a year and manse. As of October 1st we hope to make this \$2200. and manse.

Inasmuch as your Session took action that they would pay the Pastor of the Sitka Church at least what the Board paid its Pastors in aided fields, may we ask you to bring this action to the attention of your officers and see if it is possible for the Sitka Church to raise the salary of Mr. Hunter. We know that he has an advantage in buying through the school store, but also he may have an additional cost through having so many people come into their home for refreshments or supplies.

Mr. Hunter has not been told about this letter. We hope it may be possible for you to get some further action from your officers and congregation.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

Dictated by Dr. Jackman
but signed in his absence

CC Mr. Leslie Yaw

noted

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.

July 5, 1946

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Elwood B. Hunter
Sitka, Alaska

My dear Mr. Hunter:

Thank you for your recent letter telling of the progress in regard to negotiations for the U.S.O. building in Sitka and giving me a copy of your letter to the Federal Agency which will have responsibility for acting upon the bids. We are glad to be kept informed about the development of negotiations.

A few weeks ago I visited the Men's Class of the First Presbyterian Church of Germantown, Pennsylvania with Roy Ahmoeak our Elder Commissioner to the Assembly from Barrow, Alaska. During the morning service we worshipped with Dr. and Mrs. Sternfeld and had a very pleasant visit with them. Dr. Sternfeld is an architect and told us that if we had any problems in architecture in Alaska he would be very glad to counsel with us on them. Inquiries concerning him indicate that he has been a Professor of Architecture in the University, has done many outstanding buildings, and has drawn the plans for several millions of dollars worth of churches. He is a competent authority and a loyal Presbyterian officer. He was thinking in terms of giving us the benefit of his counsel without charge but if we ask him to do some work for us drawing plans we would have to make some payment for it.

Recently, I took the plans for the U.S.O. building and the suggestion of what could be done for it for a church for the Sitka Presbyterians to Dr. Sternfeld. I told him something of the history of the situation and we went over the plans very thoroughly. His opinion was that the plans were very complete and the building was very practical for the use for which it was constructed. He questioned very seriously the possibility of adapting it for a permanent church building which would be satisfactory to the congregation and community.

After a long discussion, we came to the following conclusions: If you must have a church now it would be expedient to purchase the U.S.O. building. With some thought and planning it can be adapted for worship, Christian education, and social program facilities.

July 5, 1946

He would be willing if requested to spend some time on it and draw suggested changes which would be as helpful as possible with the building as is. In the end you would have a useable Church plant which was built for a secular purpose. You would have an initial low cost of a heavy upkeep responsibility with a sanctuary which is hidden in the center of the building. There is also the serious question whether such a development would satisfy the hopes of the people of the congregation and provide a worthy Church edifice for future years.

Even if you could purchase this building for \$10,000. now, would it be possible to get materials for this renovation? Unless you would buy these materials in Alaska, they would not be procurable in the United States. The Civilian Production Authority has limited practically all of the available building materials for veteran housing. Even under a personal appeal to Washington, D.C., we were not able to get a priority for building materials for the village of Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island which has neither a school or a Church and our building would be used for both.

It is our recommendation that you should not purchase the U.S.C. building for a Church but wait a little longer until building materials are available and it is possible to build the kind of a Church which will symbolize the ministry of the Presbyterian denomination to Sitka and will be an expression of the hopes of the congregation. While we make this recommendation, I also want to indicate again that if your people still feel it is wise to purchase this building our Board has gone on record of matching dollar for dollar up to \$10,000. what your congregation would put into the building to make it available for Church and Christian education purposes.

Our Board is beginning for this coming year a rather complete study of the building needs of our whole Church. This has been brought about because of the critical need of help from so many city and suburban churches in new buildings for the post-war program. The study is to include not only this field but also all of our mission fields. When this study is complete and even before, it is our expectation to ask the Church to make available mission funds for help in building needs on the basis of one-third of the amount raised locally, one-third a grant from various sources in the Board, and one-third a mortgage on the property. We are not able to make any guarantees on this basis and cannot say what will come out of it; we can simply express our hope that the resources might be available to help our churches. I would like to put Sitka in this situation as one place which needs help, at least on this basis.

Meanwhile, I would like to ask you to have prepared in Sitka a brief history of the Presbyterian Church with its various buildings and its moves

July 5, 1946

from one place to another, a presentation of the present needs for facilities in a Church building for the community and a school, and future needs which will arise out of the development of the new government project on Japoniski Island. We have approached the Home Missions Council about providing an interdenominational worker in connection with the school and sanitarium. The present suggestion is that the Home Missions Council would make a grant for the support of such a worker and assign to us the responsibility for the administration of the work. We know that a great many of these young people coming into that school will have a Presbyterian background and we must recognize the fact that some enlargement of our responsibility will come because of this project in the Sitem Church. We must face the demands of the future and plan and build in preparation to meet these demands.

Pending some action upon the basis of this letter, we shall keep the present plans here at the office. If you decide to go ahead with the U.S.O. building, we shall need these plans to put into the hands of the architect. If you decide to forget the U.S.O. building, we can return the plans or keep them as you direct.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackson, Secretary

JES:FX Unit of Work in Alaska

CC. Mr. Leslie Taw

Letter
Session

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.

July 5, 1946

read mail

CONFIDENTIAL

The Rev. Elwood B. Hunter
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Hunter:

Miss Mathews has returned from her trip to Alaska and we have had a conference about many matters along the way. Among the questions discussed was the situation in regard to the Church at Sitka. She reported that the Rev. Mr. Thomas has indicated his intention of recommending to Bishop Bentley that the Episcopalians close their work in Sitka and make an arrangement whereby their people could be affiliated with the Presbyterian Church for spiritual ministry and dispose of the property.

This has led us to make the following suggestion. That we approach the Episcopalians with the proposal that we take over their property at a nominal amount and offer their people an affiliated relationship with the Presbyterian congregation.

In my judgement their Church building is not useable for our purposes. It would have to be torn down and the material used in the construction of a new edifice on the same site, which to me is the ideal site for the location of our new Church. When the new Church is constructed, we would agree to welcome the Episcopalians to our services and invite them to share in the program of the Church. At the same time, we would also agree to make available the resources of the Church when Bishop Bentley or a visiting Episcopal rector would want to come for an early Sunday communion service or a gathering of the Episcopalian group at a time outside of the stated services of the Church. If you and Mr. Yaw agree to this, talk to Mr. Thomas about it, and bring it before your Session in confidence. Then I would approach Bishop Bentley about it. To me this is a much wiser strategy than buying the U.S.C. building.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:PK

CC:Mr. Leslie Yaw

AUG 2 1946

July 29, 1946

Miss Edna R. Voss
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, N. Y.

My dear Miss Voss:

We are enclosing a letter received from Henry W. Clark of the Alaska Development Board dated July 24, a copy of our answer, and a copy of his reply dated July 26.

We are sending this correspondence to you in order that you may know what is opening up for us here at Sitka and I feel sure that there may be possibilities for other institutions under our Board.

You will note our question regarding the U.S.O. building. At the moment there is some thought that the Episcopalians and Presbyterians may get together here at Sitka, and in this event the Presbyterian Church would not take over the U.S.O. building. However, it is much too early to know definitely about this now, and so our question to Mr. Clark was only a question. Now since it has been raised and does have possibilities, what would you and Dr. Jackman think of the possibilities of operating the U.S.O. as a community recreational center. As such it could be a haven of refuge not only for Sheldon Jackson students on leave in town, but also its facilities could be available for the young people coming across the channel from the new school to be established on Japonski. Further use of the building would include service men off boats as they come and go from Sitka, also other young people of the community and of various organizations.

Yours sincerely,

Leslie Yaw
President

C

Enc.

Sitka Church file

OCT 21 1946

Sheldon Jackson Junior College

Sitka, Alaska

owned and operated by
Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

October 11, 1946

Leslie Yaw, President

Dr. J. Earl Jackman
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Earl:

Last summer you sent me a copy of
your letter to Mr. Wurster. At our
congregational meeting on Wednesday, October
9, we were able to follow up on this.

*noted on
budget
sheet
JK*

We are glad to report now that the
Sitka church has increased Rev. Hunter's
salary to \$2200. and manse. I am reporting
this as Mr. Wurster is out in Anchorage
and missed the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Leslie Yaw

Leslie Yaw
President

c

Such a file

October 30, 1946

Via Air Mail

Mr. Leslie Yaw
Sheldon Jackson Junior College
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Les:

Thank you for your letter bearing the welcome news that the Sitka Church has increased Mr. Hunter's salary to \$2200 and manse. I am sure that must be a source of great encouragement to the Hunters to realize that the Church is appreciating their ministry so much that the salary has been increased.

We have had several brief reports on the Workers Conference, and they are all good except that the attendance was a great disappointment. If we had known there were going to be so few there, we could not have justified so much expense in sending ~~you~~^{us} people in from the outside. However, you adjusted the situation in a very creditable fashion, and the student body received some benefit from our leadership as well as the layworkers. We appreciate how busy you must have been getting school opened and the Workers Conference started at the same time, but as usual you did a good job.

As a result of the reports we have had, I come back to the old plan of two years ago of the possibility of having a Summer Institute of Theology for the ministers as well as the laymen, or else we ought to expand the Workers Conference in October to include courses for every one who is there. I should like also to consider the proposition of having the men from the interior come down by way of the highway to Haines and thence to Sitka. Every time they see that we have done something for Southeastern Alaska, their voices get a little louder in protest because we do nothing for them. *They could* ~~it goes~~ drive to Haines rather economically and perhaps we could get a whole carload of them to Sitka for the same price that we would pay to send one man by air into their territory. We must plan to do something about it.

The present situation of shipping on the West Coast and inquiries into the future for next summer give us no encouragement of having a seminar trip to Alaska. Dr. Chappel and I have talked it over and have come to the conclusion that it might be better for us the coming summer to put some publicity in Monday Morning indicating that Presbyterian people that travel in Alaska should notify us when they expect to be there, and we shall try to make arrangements for our pastors and workers to meet them at each place the boat will stop and show them our work. This is not an adequate job, but may be the best we can do for the coming summer.

Some place along the way on my last trip, I ran across the trail of Mrs. Yaw and Helen. We hope that Helen is settled in school ^{by} this time and making good progress. Kindest regards to yourself, family and all the rest.

Cordially yours,

JEJ/bz

J. Earl Jackman,
Unit of Work in Alaska

*Japowski Id. File
(cc also in Morse's
ER II - File)*

MEMORANDUM

November 15, 1946

To - - Dr. Morse
From - Dr. Jackman

The Federal Office of Indian Affairs is in process of developing a Mt. Edgecomb High School for Native youth on Japowski Island opposite Sitka, Alaska and will later have a Tuberculosis Hospital on the same Island. The program calls for the latest and best equipment and advance teaching program. It is proposed all of this will be done without cost of tuition or board and room for the Native youth.

The Alaska Committee of the Home Missions Council has considered this and feels that it will be a permanent injury to the youth themselves if they were not required to pay something within the limits of their ability. The Committee has authorized the Secretary of the Home Missions Council to write a letter to Dr. Willard W. Beatty of the Office of Indian Affairs urging that the young people be required to pay something according to the ability of their families for this advanced training. The Committee also has asked the denominational Mission Boards which have work in the Territory to write the same kind of a letter to Dr. Beatty.

May we ask you to present this matter to the Advisory Committee of the Board to get their reaction and recommendation?

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

COPY of letter sent by Dr. Hermann N. Morse, Administrative Secretary,
Board of National Missions, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10,
New York as it appeared in Board Minutes (Page #5 of Report
of Advisory Committee on Missionary Operation) of November
20-22, 1946 meeting.

November 27, 1946

"Dr. Willard W. Beatty
Director of Education
Office of Indian Affairs
Merchandise Mart
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Dr. Beatty:

At the meeting of the Board of National Missions held November 22, 1946, announcement was made of the plans of the Federal Office of Indian Affairs to develop, on Japonski Island, Alaska, the Mt. Edgecomb High School for native youth. We understand that later it is planned to develop a tuberculosis hospital on the same Island.

As you know, this Board has long been concerned with the educational and material welfare, as well as the spiritual welfare of the Indians in Alaska. The Board directed me to express to you our gratification that the splendid facilities on Japonski Island are to be used in this way for the benefit of the native youth. At the same time, the Board would express to you its judgment that it would be in the best interests of all concerned if those who receive the benefits of this development are required to make reasonable payment within the limits of their ability. This is in accordance with the long established policy and practice of this Board which we believe makes for the development of self-reliance and personal responsibility.

Sincerely yours,

H. N. Morse
Secretary"

copied per FK
Unit of Work in Alaska
J. Earl Jackman, Secretary

Sitka Ch

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.

December 18, 1946

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Elwood B. Hunter
First Presbyterian Church
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Elwood:

We were delighted to learn from Mr. Yaw that the officers of your Church have taken action for an increase in your salary. This gives evidence of a fine response to your ministry.

We regret that no progress is being made toward a better building for your church congregation. The procedure concerning the U.S.O. property is slow as may be Providential. I still hope that we may find something down on the main street between the campus and the town which would be far better in the long run.

We are now in the midst of a study of the post-war program in Alaska. We have been asked to submit a statement of building needs. I have put in a considerable amount for a new Church in Sitka but have no assurance of getting anything. At least we are thinking of your welfare in the future.

We commend you on your vision in having the congregation lay up some money for a new church building. Certainly, it would be far better if they could have half of the funds in hand when they come to building.

Blessings upon you in your important work in Sitka!

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

Dictated by Dr. Jackman
but signed in his absence

*Official Copy
Japanski Island
Alaska*

C
O
P
Y

December 20, 1946

Mr. H. N. Morse, Secretary
Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Morse:

I am pleased to receive your letter of November 27 expressing your interest in our new installation on Japanski Island in Alaska.

I think the Indian Office is in general accord with your proposal that those receiving benefits should make a reasonable payment for them within the limits of their ability. This is not always possible under existing law. However, I will canvass the situation with members of the Health and Education Divisions here in the Chicago Office with a view to working out something if it seems possible.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Willard W. Beatty

For the Commissioner

copied by F.K.
Unit of Work in Alaska
J. Earl Jackman, Secretary

Sitka Alaska

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

December 30, 1946

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Elwood B. Hunter
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Elwood:

see letter to Hunter

C We were glad to receive your letter of December 16th in regard to a new location for the church. This gives evidence of the fact that the session is thinking in the right direction.

When Miss Voss and I were on the campus, we agreed that the corner spot across from Mr. Yaw's home was a very appropriate place on which to build a new church. However, a year ago the women of our Board appropriated \$10,000. to build a new home for the President and, I believe, the present plan is to locate it on that corner. If that is done, of course, that corner will not be available for the new church.

In a recent visit with Dr. Beatty in Chicago he raised the question whether we would be interested in buying the Territorial School in Sitka. He described it as nearer the pioneer home. Without seeing it or knowing the exact location my reaction was negative because it is so far away from the campus. It is still my hope that the location shall be along the Main Street between the campus and the community. **P** It is hard for me to give up the location of the present Episcopal ^{Church} but the Bishop has said they are not interested in letting that property go. **Y**

We quite agree with you that the sooner we have a program for the new church pointed up the better it will be. Our Board still has available the \$10,000. which has been appropriated now over a period of five years for the new church in Sitka, and the Board members smile when the project is brought up again because it has been before them so many times. Inasmuch as this comes from a particular fund in the Board, I cannot get another grant for a similar amount for any other church in the Territory until this one is disposed of. Alaska ought to come in for its proportional share from this fund but it is hard to ask for another amount when this one has not been used. Realizing

Page #2

The Rev. Elwood B. Hunter December 30, 1946

the additional need in Sitka, I have asked for a larger amount from the Challenge Budget which is to be put before the Church next year. We have no assurance of getting a dollar of it but if it should come through increased giving from the Church as a whole, Sitka might get some benefit from it.

We congratulate the Pastor and the people of the Sitka Church upon the accomplishment of their Restoration Fund. The fulfillment of this campaign ought to lay the ground work for advanced giving toward a building project.

Thank you for your contribution in service to the village of Angoon. In our study of southeastern Alaska, we note that there has been no advance in membership in the Presbytery of Alaska over a period of ten years which would indicate to me that our program has not been very deep or very aggressive.

I am looking forward to at least a part of the time at the Presbytery in Sitka. Dr. Dawber of the Home Missions Council and one or more representatives of the Methodists and other denominations will be coming up at the same time for this survey, which means that I shall not be able to spend the full time in Presbytery but will have to move about the Territory with the other men. I want to be in the Presbytery meetings as much as possible.

Blessings upon you and your wife in your important ministry in Sitka!

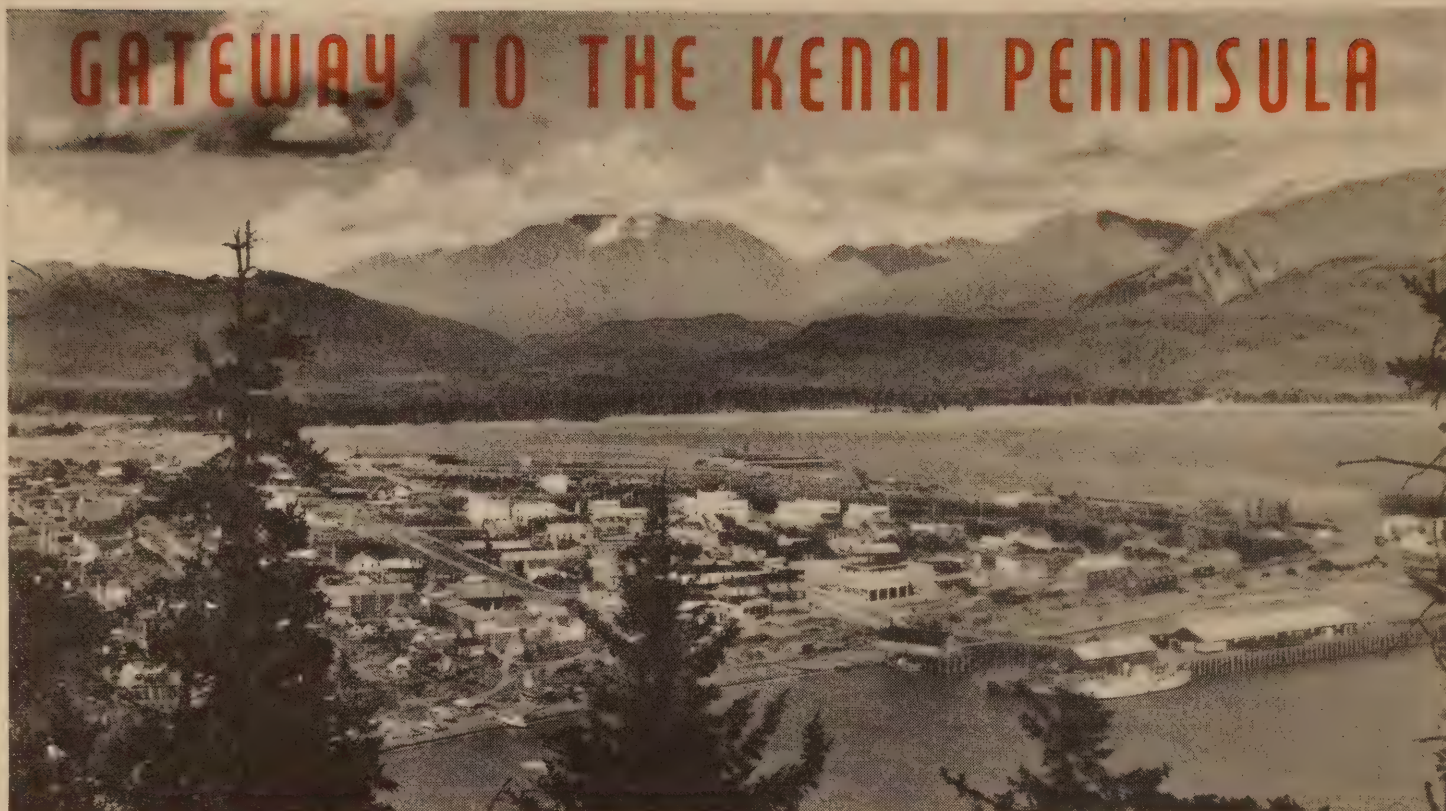
Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

Seward-

GATEWAY TO THE KENAI PENINSULA



E. Edwards Photo

AS gateway to the wondrous Kenai Peninsula — home of the world's largest moose and the Kodiak or Alaska brown bear, Seward has developed as debarkation point for sportsmen and vacationers. The Kenai Peninsula comprises approximately six million acres of land, much of which is still unsurveyed. As such it is a veritable paradise for the outdoor vacationer, including countless mountain sheep and goats, lakes and rivers leaping with fighting fish of many varieties, mountain climbing, boating and skiing.

Seward is the tidewater terminus of the Alaska Railroad, which wends its way through the northeastern part of the peninsula to Anchorage and Fairbanks. Its economic life is derived from sheep and cattle grazing lands, dairy and farm produce, mining, fish canneries and fur farms. Railroad and dock employment also pro-

vide important means of financial support.

Post-war development in Seward has not been felt as yet. However, the city commands a strategic position in the area and development may come with expected future settlement.

Homesteading is being encouraged by the Seward Chamber of Commerce. To the north and west of the Kenai Mountains are more than two million acres of rich loam farmland. The Chamber ad-

Debarkation point for sportsmen and vacationers, Seward is the gateway to the Kenai Peninsula. Its various scenic attractions make it ideal for vacation visitors and its economic life is centered around the Alaska Railroad. Seward is a typically modern Alaskan town.

vises prospective homesteaders to have sufficient family funds, preferably from \$2,000 to \$5,000, to carry them through the first year or two, especially if they expect to develop new land.

This city alone, with its abundant waterpower resources, could serve the entire peninsula with electricity as well as furnish power for the electrification of the Alaska Railroad between Seward and Anchorage.

Though still relatively small, Seward is typically modern with one of the best airfields in Alaska, schools and churches, a hospital, and fraternal organizations including the Masons, Odd Fellows, Moose, Elk, Eastern Stars, and Rebeccas, Chamber of Commerce, Women's Federation Clubs, and Lions Club.

The next few years may find an influx of people into the peninsula, and upon this settlement lies Seward's fate.

"Alaska Beauty Spot" ...

SITKA

ALASKA
PERM. FILE

For many years one of the beauty spots of Alaska, Sitka is now determined to become one of the ranking business towns of Southeastern Alaska.

UNWILLING to return to her pre-war status of a quaint and sleepy little fishing village, Sitka is determined to be one of the ranking business towns of Southeastern Alaska. The city has undergone several major face-lifting operations. The principal streets have been paved, sewer facilities modernized, new water mains and lines have been laid, and a modern public school has been constructed. In short, Sitka has expanded on the fundamentals necessary for her future growth.

Plans for the improvement of local facilities for both water and air transportation have been of prime interest. Jamestown Bay, a nearby and safe all-weather anchorage for boats, is the site of a new marine ways for boat construction and repair. Two marine shops are now available for fishermen.

For some time the city has been concerned with two big projects. First, the construction of a small boat harbor, and second, a \$600,000 hydro-electric plant at Blue Lake near Silver Bay.

The small boat harbor was needed even before the war when plans were first completed. While awaiting funds for the project, the city increased the capacity of the city float and made electric light service available to boats tied there. Plans included the improvement of Neva and Olga Straits, adjacent to Sitka.

The Sitka Public Utilities is making the Blue Lake improvements. Upon completion, the plant will harness 10,000 horsepower, an ample supply for the community. A pulp mill is the logical industry to follow this improvement.

Depending upon lumbering and fishing for a substantial share of her economy, Sitka has kept her large sawmill supplied with timber from four lumber camps. However, many branches in the industry, including wood processing and specialized work, remain practically untouched.

The same is true of the fishing industry. Quick freezing of fish, particularly scrap fish, can be developed. As the exploitation of fish and fish products increases, the demand for cold storage facilities will increase. At present only one cold storage plant is available for both the townspeople and fishermen.

Japonski Island, a few miles out in the bay, is the site for several new developments. A health center for natives of Southeastern Alaska has been opened and the Indian service will send children there instead of having its orthopedic cases going to Seattle. A new 200-bed tuberculosis hospital also has been completed. In addition to this, a native school now houses 500 to 600 Indians. Appropriations for this work came from a \$250,000 fund provided by Congress.

Back on the mainland, the city boasts an excellent, accredited public school system and a private Junior College at Sheldon Jackson School. Sitka's stores are modern and up-to-date. They afford residents a wide variety of merchandise. Other activities include a number of churches such as the famous St. Michael's Cathedral which is a Russian landmark; a theatre, and a tri-weekly newspaper.

[THE END]



Airview of Sitka

Sitka Photo Shop



Seward from the air

E. Bedford

al file
Sitka, al
Okon file 7dr

MEMORANDUM

TO: Miss Katharine E. Gladfelter

DATE: May 10, 1950

FROM: J. Earl Jackman

On my recent visit to Sitka I discovered something which apparently had not come to your attention. A lease had been drawn up by the Board in favor of a new radio broadcasting station in Sitka to be erected on Board property. It became apparent that the manager of the station had made some advertising contracts with two or three people who sell liquor in their establishments. Liquor was not mentioned in the advertisement on the radio but, of course, people knew who heard the name of the place what was sold there.

It was reported to me that James Robinson on the staff at the school had refused to supply the pulpit of the Sitka Church during the vacation of Elwood Hunter because the service was broadcast over the same station which carried liquor advertisements. We recognized at once that it was not good for the Board or for the church to have this kind of advertising going out from any source on our property.

The following morning I had a meeting with the directors of the company. They were men of high character and wanted to have a station program which could be acceptable to all. They felt that a little bit of such advertising without mentioning the liquor business wouldn't hurt, but if the Board felt there should be none then they would have to abide by that decision. I took the position of the Board that we were sympathetic with them in starting a new venture and wanted to cooperate in order that the station could continue a program of high quality. We didn't want to do anything that would jeopardize their business, but we could not be in a position of having this kind of advertising from the station. They agreed to continue the contracts which were now in existence because they were contracts but not to renew them upon their expiration. On the other hand, I suggested that if they felt they needed a certain amount of this business to continue their operation, it would be better for them to purchase the property outright than to lease it. They will take this into consideration in the future. Meanwhile, they have agreed not to renew these contracts.

JEJ:AG

cc: Mr. Yaw
Mr. Tribus

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS

TO
FROM
RE:

DATE

Suter Church
became self-supporting
10/1/43

for old cor.

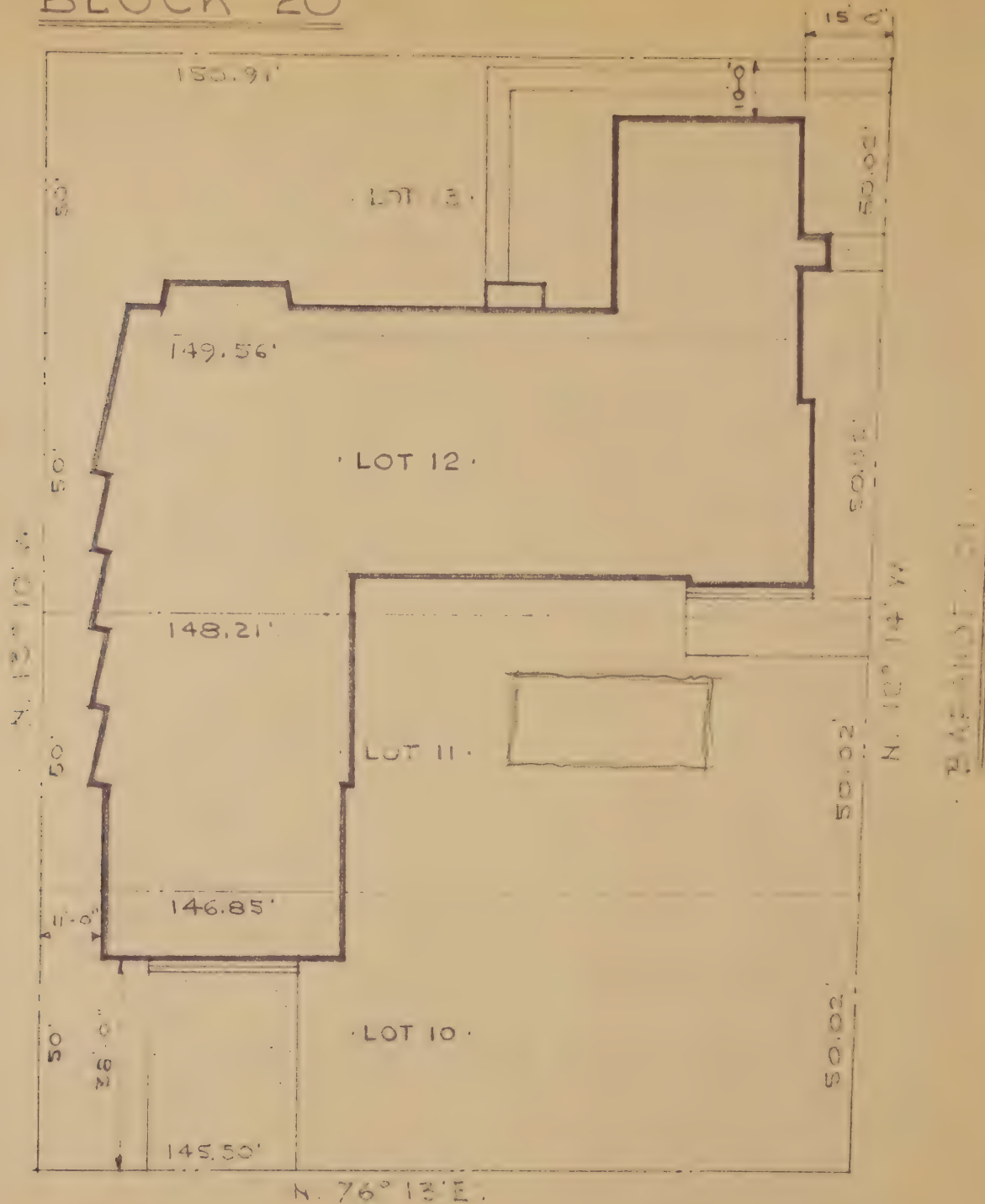
JK
8/23/52

Re-Survey (New)

at Perm. Sub

July 4, 1953

• BLOCK 20 •



N. 76° 13' E.

• C STREET •

• PLOT PLAN •

• FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH •
SITKA, ALASKA.

LINN A. FORREST ARCHITECT A.I.A.
JUNEAU, ALASKA. 7-25-53.

SCALE 1" = 30'-0"

*all
Sitka*

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

December 23, 1953

The Rev. Elwood B. Hunter
Sitka
Alaska

Dear Elwood:

We have received a letter from Eleanor saying that your family are located in particular places, though you are miles apart. We trust that this period of separation will not be too hard on the family fellowship.

We have received the plans of the new church for Sitka and have been examining them with the Rev. Richard McCarroll who is the advisor on church plans for the Building Aid Dept. He has gone over them pretty thoroughly and has made some notations on the plans. Since he feels it were better for you to examine these along with his notations we are sending them back to you ~~Air Mail~~ and will ask you later to send us another set for our reference here at the office. Of course Mr. McCarroll has no knowledge of Alaska from the standpoint of visiting there but is giving his suggestions on the basis of general experience with church buildings. I would heartily agree with practically all of his suggestions as they may be related to the work in Sitka.

As I first looked at the plans it was my immediate impression that the cross is too high. You may not have as much wind in Sitka as they have in Hydaburg but on their plans they lowered the cross a great deal from the plans and still complain about it shaking the building when there is a high wind.

With a fellowship hall as large as you have it would seem unnecessary to think of projecting films in the sanctuary. In addition the distance between the proposed projection booth and the front of the sanctuary is too long for the commonly used 16 mm. projector. I would eliminate the projection booth.

There seems to be too much distance between the front of the pulpit platform and the place where the minister sits. This is in great contrast to your present situation but if you would take three feet off of that and three feet off of the distance between the front pew and the pulpit platform you could bring your choir forward by 6 feet and eliminate the necessity of the bay at the back of the choir. That would save considerable in the cost of this construction but if at a later time you needed more space in the sanctuary the wall back of the choir could be knocked out and the whole choir moved back into an addition.

The space at the narthex could be condensed. Very few churches now have a cry room. Under present trend of development you would have need for this for very few people and it seems unwise to take up so much space of the sanctuary for the few people who would benefit from it. The depth of the narthex could be compressed by 5 or 6 feet.

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

Including the choir the seating capacity in the proposed sanctuary is about 400. Apparently you need that much space now but when summer comes you will not have a congregation large enough to fill more than half of it. I have been wondering if it would not be better to plan for a seating capacity of approximately 300 in the sanctuary with the possibility of opening folding doors into fellowship hall to make the space for an additional 100. This would care for your winter congregation and would not leave such a large empty sanctuary for the summer congregation. Of course if Sitka grows as it probably will you may need all the space provided for now in these plans.

If the sanctuary were to be made smaller than the present plans provide then you would need folding partitions between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall. But if your sanctuary is to continue to provide for a seating capacity of 400 or a little more under pressure than it might be better to put the solid wall between the sanctuary and fellowship hall. Your local people are better judges of this than we would be but we are trying to avoid the tendency of over-building in the sanctuary at a high cost with too much space for the congregation.

We quite agree with Mr. McCarroll that the toilets ought not to open into another room where people are working or having meetings. It would be better to have them open from the hallway. Also, if it is possible to concentrate your plumbing in one section of the building you will find less danger of freezing pipes and greater economy in keeping necessary parts of the building warm.

Mr. McCarroll has sketched a possible expansion of the building in front of the Christian Education wing in case you need more classroom space later.

The plans look very practical and could provide for expansion of facilities later if the growth of Sitka and the congregation warrant it. The plan is rather attractive inside and outside.

In as much as the session of the church talked with Dr. Sharp when he was up there about the possibility even yet of building next to the campus and an approach was made to the Presbytery to intercede with the Board in favor of that spot, we are wondering whether the congregation is united upon proceeding with the building on the new location or whether there is a division within the congregation regarding it. Following the letter from the State Clerk of the Presbytery we held a conference here of Dr. Morse, Dr. Sharp, Miss Gladfelter and myself about it. It was our feeling that you would need a spot of ground of sufficient size to build an adequate church plant and it would have to set back far enough from Lincoln Ave. so that it would not obstruct the view of the campus from the city side. In order to get this much land it would require the removal of two existing buildings which would be a rather expensive proposition. Those concerned here on the staff have never been adverse to giving the land to the church but have had some serious questions about the feasibility and practicality of putting it on that location next to the campus. If your people are fairly united on continuing with the building on the new location it would be better to go right ahead with it rather than to bring this question up again. We had talked here in terms of having a thorough study made with the administration of the school, the congregation of the church and an estimate of the cost of moving the other buildings to make way for the church building on this site.

of the Presbyterian Church in the

Since your program of building is under way perhaps this question should be forgotten completely and full effort given to the construction of the new church in the new location.

The Charles K. Smith grant of \$10,000. which was made some years ago had been a matter of record since it was made. Already I had notified the budget director that this might be called for in 1954. We have made two approaches to the First Church of Portland, Oregon to see if we can speed up their campaign and get the money from that source. Meanwhile, you ought to be making out your application papers for your grant and loan from the Board of National Missions. Ordinarily, these papers should be completed and approved by the Board before you can expect any funds from this source to help on a completed building.

Blessings upon you as you push forward without your family into this new period of development on the church.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Dept. of Work In Alaska

JEJ:bc

CC: Dr. R. Rolland Armstrong

DEC 18 1953

First Presbyterian Church

ELWOOD B. HUNTER, PASTOR · MISS ELEANOR RUPPERT, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION · CHARLES LITTLEFIELD, CLERK OF SESSION

SITKA, ALASKA

December 15, 1953

Dr. J. Earle Jackman
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Jackman:

The work on the church is progressing and moving along so rapidly that it is necessary to clear up a couple of items.

The first and most important seems to be that of the definite approval of the plans. I believe that I sent a set of plans for approval by the Board some months ago and that you returned them to me. But I cannot find the letter of approval. We may begin driving piling even this week, and if there is any question about the approval of our plans, we should know it at once. I know that you have seen the plans, plus the picture of the church, but rather than hold up the approval of the plans, I am sending them on to you, plus a perspective drawing that we are going to use on a brochure in the future.

The plans could remain in New York if you wish, as we were given nine copies. I do need the perspective drawing back. I am also sending a copy of the plot plan. On this plan you see Lot #11 is the second lot on our land. We have found that a building formerly stood there in the area drawn in pencil.

See Plot Side
Your telegram said that we might have to show an affidavit to the effect that this lot had not been lived on for twenty years. I am not sure that we are going to be able to get such an affidavit. It's true that when we purchased the lot, the roof on this building had fallen in. It had not been used for some time previously. Apparently, it was used during the Sims-Drake days during the war period. The Cooks, however, owned the property at that time, and we are trying to contact them in order to get further information. Faulkner seems to think that there is no serious problem about the lot, but if there is any question about obtaining Board Loans, we should know it immediately. We hate to slow things down at all right now, as there is considerable volunteer help.

Dr. J. Earle Jackman

December 15, 1953

Andrew Hope has been made foreman of the job and is being paid four hundred dollars a month for a six-hour day and a six-day week. He started work on December 1st. We have 220 piling on the lot, eight to nine feet in length. Most of it is hemlock but some is cedar.

The detailed plans for the foundation and flooring call for 248 piles. We did not bring them all down, thinking we might need some longer ones, and we cannot tell this until we begin to drive them. The cost of the piling will be negligible as stumpage on piling will run .2 cent per lineal foot.

We have been clearing the lot since Saturday. Today will see that completed. Clarence Rands is surveying the property to set our stakes. It is perfectly possible that we will be ready to drive piling by Saturday. If either approval of plans or legal possession of the property is in question on the part of the Board, I suppose that we should stop work until it is completed, but I hate to do that.

The raising of the building fund started out exceedingly well the first day, but slumped badly immediately afterwards. It picked up somewhat toward Thanksgiving, when we had hoped we could see our task completed. But Thanksgiving morning we had only thirteen thousand raised. Since that time more pledges have come in and right now we have a little more than seventeen thousand dollars raised. I really believe that we will likely complete this before the first of the year.

As you likely remember, our aim has been to match the ten thousand dollars grant, which has been promised and the five thousand dollar loan by the Board. Even if we did not raise any further money toward the building fund, we have obtained that fifteen thousand dollars. We had promised that when we raised the building fund for our own church, we would raise the quota assigned to us toward the building program of the church, U.S.A., which came to approximately two thousand dollars. We really have that in also. I feel that we should have had many small pledges which we did not get. Considering the bad fishing year in Alaska and the fact that the mill closed early in September, there are many gratifying indications in the response which we have received.

Use Bd. M. fund raiser!

DEC 18 1953

Dr. J. Earle Jackman

December 15, 1953

When could we get the ten thousand dollars that was originally offered to the Sitka building program, and what must be fulfilled to receive it? Right now, we are running on our own ten thousand dollars and believe that this will put the foundation in, plus the flooring. We may not need it for as much as six months, but it would be gratifying to know what the requirements will be to obtain it.

If we are to stop work on the church, we should receive a telegram. If not, we are going to go ahead, trusting that everything will work out in the end.

Thank you for all your help. There are many indications, both in the raising of the building fund and also in the spirit shown in the volunteer help, and the way the committee has taken hold of the plans, that can only be explained by the fact that the Lord is going before and preparing the way. Some of those who have offered their help, we had little expectation of ever seeing on the job.

The committee in charge of construction is composed of Mr. Yaw, Mr. Latta and Mr. Doig. We had some doubts as to whether Mr. Latta would be released from the building plans of the school and so decided to use Mr. Hope in this portion of the construction which he is fairly capable of doing, under the supervision of Mr. Latta and the committee. Mr. Yaw has been a tremendous help in pushing the project forward and in getting volunteer help. He has spent a number of days on the job himself.

Too much cannot be said for this committee. They have worked diligently.

Thank you again.

Yours, in Christ,

Elwood

Elwood B. Hunter
Sitka, Alaska

EBH:L

*all
Sitka Chds.*

Mr. Locke (CC: Mr. Tribus)
Dr. Jackman
Sitka, Alaska

July 17, 1956

The patent for the middle lot of the site of the new church in Sitka has been approved in Washington and has been sent to the Land Office in Anchorage for processing. That office is requiring two periods of advertising for applications for a purchaser and then bids for the purchase. We have protested this requirement since the church already owns the lot, but there will be further delay before the patent is actually issued.

Meanwhile, they have 12 college-age young people as a Work Team there and need funds to purchase materials to keep them busy. (Their home churches have paid their transportation and food to supply them as volunteers.) We would ask that the \$5000. additional grant from the Charles K. Smith Fund be released at once to supply materials so that the volunteer work may go forward.



JEJ:FK

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Dept. of Work in Alaska

*Ch B5388 - 5000.-
approved 7/19/56*

*w/ funds
to Rev. Wm A. Saven
①*



REV. WILLIAM GAVIN - MINISTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SITKA, ALASKA

PHONE BLACK 170 - P.O. BOX 538

July 26, 1956

Dr. J. Earl Jackman
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

We received the check for \$5000.00 and deeply appreciate your help in obtaining it and the speed with which you made it available to us. All materials for the education unit and fellowship hall have been ordered and the next boat will probably have them on board.

We are awaiting word from the land office in Anchorage. I hope your letter concerning issuance of the patent will bring speedy results. Thank you for writing.

We have had several problems arise in connection with the installation of the windows but they have been ironed out and all but one or two small windows have been installed. Professional cement finishers have given us volunteer help and as a result most of the rooms in the educational unit have the tubing and finish layer of cement on the floors.

The work campers are doing a wonderful job. We have had a grand time with them and their contribution can only be expressed by using superlatives.

If we could only receive the grant and loan from the "Board" we would be able to hire the labor necessary to complete the two units for occupation by September.

Thank you for all you have done and are doing.

Sincerely yours,

Bill

W. H. Gavin

*Al
Sitka Ch. Dir.*

August 2, 1956

Air Mail

The Rev. William H. Gavin
Box 538
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Bill:

Thank you for the good report of the progress of the work on the new church in your letter of July 26.

We have had a letter from Roger Robinson, the Town-Site Trustee of Anchorage, stating that the way seems to be clear by the middle of August to issue the final patent on the church lot in Sitka. In anticipation of this, we have asked Mr. Tribus to work on all other papers involved so that they will be in order and complete by the time the patent arrives. He is interested in having the way clear as early as possible to issue the funds, and has promised to check on the papers. Favorable action on this would release the additional \$5000 grant-loan and make available \$15000 in loans from the Borad for use.

Since Roger McShane has found it impossible to come to you in October for the preaching mission, do you have any other suggestion or do you want me to go ahead and find someone who seems to be suitable for the Sitka situation? We are still working on invitations to the ministers and clearances with their Sessions and have not made any attempt to complete assignments, unless the particular church has asked for a particular man and we find that he can go. Let me know on this as soon as you can and we will follow it up.

You should know that I got a very good close-up of you and Peggy at the side of the plane when our Seminar left Sitka. It is a pleasure to look upon your smiling faces, and we will have you smiling at groups of people in many places. Regards to all the family.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Department of Work in Alaska

JEJ:lgd
CC: Mr. Brian Cleworth

*all
see
letter Church*

December 18, 1956

VIA AIRMAIL
The Rev. William Gavin
Box 598
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Bill:

We have the copy of the letter from Army about allowing the school to use the old church building for music and instruction or for storage space.

Before an answer is given to that question it seems to me we ought to return to the action which the session took some months ago of asking the Board to permit you to demolish the old building and use the framing material in the construction of the new church plant. Since you were still using the building and there was a question as to how much of it could be used in the new structure and whether you would need this type of material for the sanctuary, I did not present your request or a recommendation to the Board. It is possible that you are far enough along with the construction to know whether there will be any need for the kind of material which you would get out of the old church building. If it is clear that you will not have any need of anything which is in it then it would be a fair action to request the session or the congregation or both to recommend to the Board that we transfer the use of it to the school for a limited time until they can make further progress on their building facilities and then destroy the present building.

Inasmuch as the Board has taken an action favoring a further appropriation for the completion of the sanctuary and the new building it would seem wiser to me to use new material there and leave the old building completely behind you. We would appreciate a report of the action of the session and congregation on this.

We are interested to know what progress you are making on the completion of the first unit so that you can have use of it at an early date.

Best regards to all of you and special blessings to you in your ministry at this great season of the year.

Cordially yours,

JMJ:dj
cc: Miss Gladfelder
The Rev. Brian Cleworth
Dr. E. Rolland Armstrong

J. Earl Jackman

Jan. 1, 1957

Dear Dr. Jackson,

Happy New Year to
you, your dear wife and
all the family at 156.

I am writing this
as I feel the good Lord
wants me to. A woman
has just left my home
after a visit in which
she stated how sick
she was over our church

May I say here. This lady
is a dear friend of Mrs. Mr.
Short.

I wrote you some time
ago telling of the good the
Shorts were doing. Now how
I felt you should not take
them from here. I say here
& now. I was very very
wrong. They are doing so
much more from now
than they ever did good.
I don't understand this
thinking at all now.

He is so blessed to have
 a man and his family
 such as Mr. Gove. I think
 I don't agree with all
 he is trying to do - but he
 is our minister and needs
 our backing. Not crossing
 every thing he does. Making
 fear of a few hardships we
 have putting all blame on
 Mr Gove. It is all small
 things but adding up
 to bigger things

Perhaps other have not
 written to you but I
 feel so badly about all
 this and do wish you
 could either replace them
 or leave the vacancy until
 you can. I am sure it
 would be a lot easier on
 Mr. Green if he had to do
 all the work than the
 way it is now.

Mother has been a little
 very bad. She thought nearly
 all was taking her breath
 but she is better today.
 God bless you all
 in haste
 Charles Ling

*Al
Missed the
car*

January 22, 1957

X
Mrs. Samuel Sing
Mt. Edgecumbe, Alaska

Dear Caroline:

Thank you for your letter of January 1, telling about the situation in the Sitka Church. We have been giving some attention to this, hoping to work out a better relationship and still have that hope. If this is not possible, then we will have to do something else.

Thank you for the word about your mother. We have been following her condition at a distance through Ralph.

Give our regards to all of the family. We are thinking of all of you in the illness which you have in your home. Best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Dept. of Work in Alaska

JEJ:gv

*all
Sitka Ch. Ste.*

April 3, 1957

Dr. Thomas R. Niven
34th & Farnam Street
Omaha 3, Nebraska

Dear Tom:

I was in Sitka last week for the meetings of Presbytery and Presbyterial and in the educational wing of the Church for services on Sunday. The new chairs and tables from your Equipment Fund are wonderful and much appreciated. Other equipment is being added as they are ready and can get it. Many, many thanks. This has been a real boost!

Cordially yours,

JEJ:FK J. Earl Jackman

*all
R. M. S.
Sutro etc*

April 3, 1947

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Rands
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Friends;

Many thanks for your hospitality during our recent visit to Sitka for the meetings of the Presbytery and Presbyterial. Both Dr. De Young and I appreciated the opportunity to stay in your home and the freedom which you gave us to come and go in accordance with our activities. We were delighted to have the opportunity of meeting more of the family and the grandchildren Sunday at dinnertime.

We also appreciate the fact that both of you are bearing your Christian witness in Sitka in a time of turmoil. It is difficult and costly to stand up for one's convictions at a time like this, but the simple, straightforward presentation of one's beliefs and Christian principles will bear their testimony eventually. We trust the Lord will continue to bless you both as you continue to express what you believe to be right.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Department of Work in Alaska

JEJ:lt

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

April 8, 1957

The Rev. William Gavin
Box 53
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Bill:

We have discussed in Cabinet meeting here the request of the Sitka Church for a grant of \$20,000 to construct a manse for the church in a different location and the release of the present manse to the school for faculty housing. It was explained to the Cabinet that the pressure on this came partly from the fact that the Department of Education and Medical Work would like to have the house for their own use, and partly from the standpoint of the long range program that the church will need a permanent manse of its own. There were many more requests for appropriations from the Priority Committee than there are funds to grant, so there was a reluctance about making this appropriation for a self-supporting church.

We put the issue up to Miss Gladfelter on how essential it was for the school to have the use of the present manse. She replied that the construction of three houses this summer would relieve the pressure on them for additional faculty housing, so that their department could agree to have the church continue to use the present house as the manse for an indefinite period. On the basis of this statement our application for the special grant for a new manse was withdrawn. We would conclude from this that the church will have the use of the manse indefinitely. It would be our recommendation that something be done for greater insulation to cut down your heating costs over the winter.

Many thanks for your hard work and gracious hospitality during the meetings of the Presbytery and Presbyterial. It was a joy to find you occupying the new building and well on the way to the development of a stronger program centered in the church.

I find a memo on my desk indicating that the papers have been prepared for the additional funds for the completion of the sanctuary and are awaiting my signature. Mr. Irvine is out of the office today and we shall try to complete them as soon as possible.

Best regards to all your family.

Cordially,

JEJ:lt
cc: The Rev. Brian Cleworth

J. Earl Jackman

Sitka Chd

Dr. Sharp
Dr. Jackman
\$30,000. Priority Fund for Sitka Church

April 18, 1957

In accordance with the action of the Priority Committee in making available another \$30,000. for the Sitka Church to complete its sanctuary, Mr. Irvine has completed all of the papers and everything is ready now but to send the money. In checking further on this, it has been discovered that the action of the Priority Committee has not been submitted to the Board for final approval. There is no record in the Board Minutes of the approval of this appropriation. This apparently is an oversight, and we would ask that you report this to the Board at the next meeting so that it can receive formal approval and the money be sent to the Sitka Church.

JEJ:FK J. Earl Jackman

May 7, 1947

The Rev. William H. Gavin
Box 53
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your copy of the letter to Mr. Trilous about the manse and the additional funds for the completion of the sanctuary.

When your letter came stating that you needed extra money for the sanctuary now so that you could order your windows, we traced the action of the Board here and found that the Priority Committee had approved it, but that through an oversight it had never been presented to the Board for confirmation and final approval so that it was recorded in the Board Minutes and the Treasury Department would be free to send the check. It was agreed by those concerned that this ought to be presented to the Board for formal approval and then there would be no question about the authority to send the check. A memo was sent to the person presenting the Report to the Priority Committee that this be done. At the time this committee reported to the Board, there was considerable confusion and a list of appropriations which had just been approved with all of the other notes on them could not be located at the moment, so that a different list was presented and the confirmation of the appropriation for the Sitka Church was omitted. The Board does not meet again until June, but we are seeking the authority of the executive officers to forward the check anyway and we hope this will be completed within a few days. There is every sincere intention of having the church receive this assistance to complete its sanctuary.

In the matter of the manse, the request for an appropriation of twenty thousand dollars for a manse on Board-owned property or twenty-two thousand dollars for a new manse if we had to buy the land, was presented to the Cabinet. A question was raised about the responsibility of the Board for this, and we justified it on the basis of the fact that Ed and Ned needed the present manse for housing on the campus. Miss Haffelter stated that the pressure for housing was to be relieved through the construction of the three homes this summer, and that department could agree to the continuance of use by the church. Therefore our request for the appropriation was withdrawn with the understanding that the church could continue to use the present manse.

We have had a conference about it here and Mr. Trius suggested that we might solve the problem by drawing up a lease to the church for the use of the manse for a period of say ten years (which could be renewed), and this would assure the church of the use of the present manse for a long enough period to justify major renovations on it. We are now in the process of asking for the approval of the Department of Education and Medical Work for this lease. Meanwhile, Mr. Trius suggests that we ask you to give us a statement of the bounds of the grounds which would be included in the lease as the responsibility of the church for upkeep. The legal way to do this would be to have a survey made, which the church would have to pay for, but a practical way might be for you to measure a certain number of feet on either side of the house, and a certain number of feet of depth from the road, and describe this as the bounds within which the church would be responsible for the upkeep of the grounds. Also, you should give us a statement of the proposed renovations on the manse and their cost. The lease could be drawn up to include these things and the use of the property granted to the church upon condition that these things be carried out.

The Board has purchased a new site for a church in Kotzebuk and the people there are considering Lynn Forrest as their architect. Would your committee recommend him?

John Boller consulted me about procedures in the appointment of Keith Lefay for work on the staff of the radio station. Since he will be ordained and will be presenting his letter of transfer from Saks-Pargo Presbytery to the Presbytery of Alaska, do you think it wise for the Ministerial Relations Committee to ask to see his papers before you recommend to the Stated Clerk of Alaska Presbytery that he request Saks-Pargo to ordain Keith for service in Alaska Presbytery? The situation is very different from a regular one where a man is serving a church, but of course the Presbytery has the right to ask for this since it is contemplated that he will become a member of it.

Regards to all of the family and blessings upon you in your work.

Cordially,

J. Earl Jackson

J.E.Jt
Cc. the Rev. Brian Claborn

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS

TO
FROM
RE:

Miss Katherine Gladfelter
Dr. J. Earl Jackman

DATE

May 7, 1957

Some weeks ago the Sitka Church raised the question about having a limited deed to the present manse on the campus for their use. The reason for this request lay in the fact that they would like to have some assurance of the continued use of the manse and then they would take action to make extensive repairs on it. Because of the pressure from the Advisory Committee and the Department of Education and Medical Work for the release of the house for further housing for campus faculty, we made the alternate suggestion of a request for funds from the Priority Committee to provide a manse in another location so that the present one could be released permanently for school use. In the last meeting of the Cabinet you stated that the three log houses which have been approved and are in the process of construction would relieve the pressure for housing and it would no longer be necessary to have the manse. On this basis, the request for the appropriation for another manse was withdrawn.

The church has now renewed the request for some recognition from the Board of their continued use of the present manse so that they can go ahead with assurance and do their major renovations. We have taken this up with Mr. Tribus and he has suggested that we make up a lease for ten years to the church upon condition that they do certain things to keep up the building and the grounds. Are you willing for your department to approve such a lease? If so, we will ask Mr. Tribus to draw it up and present it to the meeting of the Board in June. Meanwhile, we would write to the church and ask them to specify the approximate amount of ground which should be included in this lease and give us a statement of the renovations which they propose.

J. Earl Jackman

JWJ:lt

Cc.: The Rev. Brian Cleworth

for Jackman

MAY 14 1957

May 9, 1957

Re: Sitka, First, Alaska

The Rev. William Gavin
First Presbyterian Church of Sitka
Sitka, Alaska

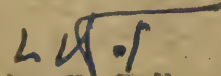
Dear Bill:

Thank you very much for your letter of May 3, 1957.
I trust by the time you receive this reply the \$30,000 check will
have been delivered. It was ordered this morning and I am sure
it will be on its way just as soon as the necessary bookkeeping
entries can be made.

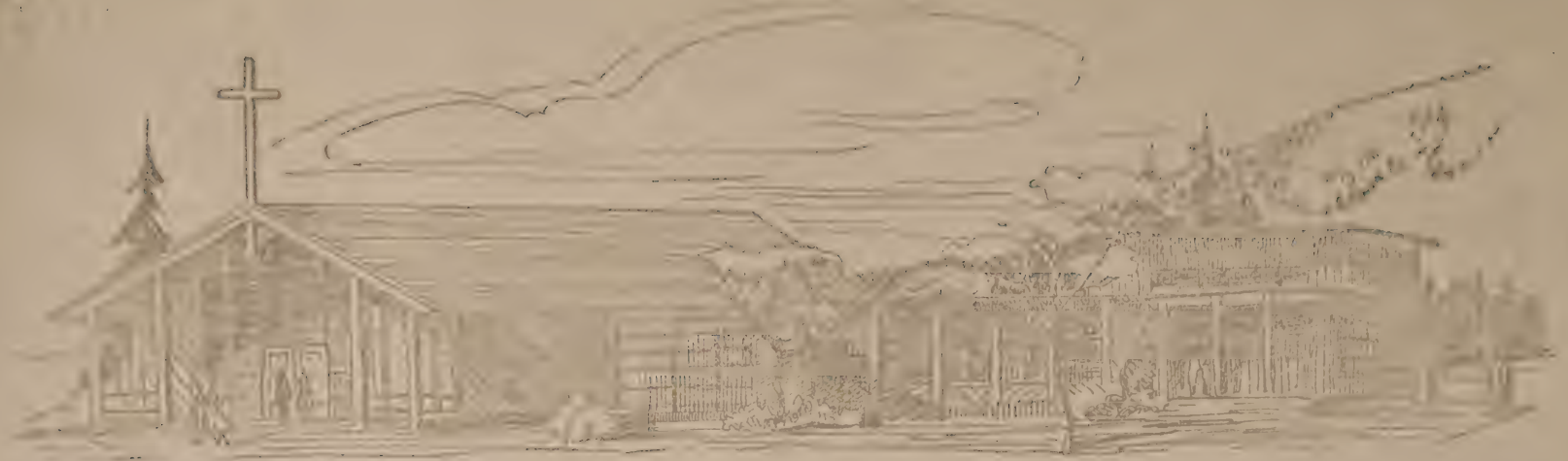
The question of the manse is not within my prerogatives.
I doubt very much if any additional money will be forthcoming from
the Board.

Wishing you joy in your work and with kind regards to
your family, I am

Sincerely yours,


Lucien H. Tribus
Legal Counsel

LHT:D
cc: Dr. J. Earl Jackman ✓
Rev. Brian Cleworth



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SITKA, ALASKA

REV. WILLIAM GAVIN - MINISTER

May 13, 1957

Dr. J. Earl Jackman
Room #711
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Dear Dr. Jackman:

Your letter of May 7th is at hand. I know you are extremely busy and that there are many churches and multitudes of problems confronting you which make it difficult to keep one situation with its many facets clearly outlined, consequently I will review the suggestions given to us by you and the various actions taken on our manse problem.

1. You assured us in a session meeting that if we requested the present property and building free of charge the Board would doubtless grant our request. This appears in our session records almost a year ago. You advised that we should study and pray about the matter.

2. In March, after discussing the subject at several previous session meetings, the session went on record requesting me to write the Board, through you, and ask for a deed to the present property and manse as the permanent site for the manse of the First Presbyterian Church of Sitka. When you attended Presbytery you told the session you did not present this request to the Board.

3. At the session meeting during Presbytery you suggested the possibility of obtaining funds from Priority giving for the purpose of building a new manse (a) on a purchased lot, (b) on Board owned property. Some of us suggested amounts needed, as high as \$30,000 -- referring to the Armstrong residence at S.J.J.C.. You felt \$20,000-\$22,000 should be the figure. The session voted to have you present this request. We then investigated building costs. The small house just recently constructed near the church on Forrestry Service land cost \$20,000. It is a \$5,000. pre-fabricated job at Seattle. Before it was ready for occupancy it cost a little over \$20,000.

4. When you presented the request for \$20,000. you informed us that it had

been refused and stated that in conversation with Miss Gladfelter you received her assurance hat the church could occupy the present manse indefinitely -- although it did not say so in so many words, it implied there would be no pressure for us to leave his building for a long period of time. There were no "strings" attached like "use of the property upon condition that these proposed renovations be carried out".

5. Because of the indefiniteness of the period, with session approval, I wrote immediately asking you to present our former request, namely to receive a deed to the present property. I believe the letter containing our first request was dated early in March.

6. I understand you are now suggesting a lease for ten years which, to quote you, "Could be renewed". You also suggest we list the improvements we plan to make with the cost of same, with the proposal that the church use the property on condition that the renovations be carried out. This all adds up to the fact that we still do not have anything. If we do not buy a lot now, desirable lots will be gone! In fact there isn't much of anything worthwhile left. The prices are climbing every day!

Here is the situation: 1. We do not have the money to buy a lot. 2. We are in debt for the church to the extent that it doesn't look as though we will be able to buy a lot or build a manse for some years to come. 3. If the Board will allow us to have this property which has been occupied by the minister of the church down through the years, it will solve the problem. The church will have its own manse. It will repair and renovate if and when it can. When it becomes financially solvent again it will be able to build the type of house it desires on the present property.

To sum up our thinking, we must act now or be forced to buy much less desirable property at a much, much, higher price. We cannot buy property, nor build a manse now or for years to come. For these reasons we repeat our request for the present building and property from the Board, free of charge.

Following your suggestion I have measured the present property. The lot desired extends to the West, 55 feet, and to the East, 70 feet beyond the present building. The lot extends North and South 160 feet. The over-all lot is 150 ft. x 160 ft.

Since I have been pastor, the church has spent over \$2,000. on the manse. They may spend more, but if it is not theirs, I doubt it. The minister (past, present and future) with his family is the one who is penalized because the church does not own a manse, not the church. Human nature being what it is, you know and I know only what is absolutely necessary will be done as long as the church does not own the property.

We faced this problem when we arrived on the field. This is an independent church yet the congregation does not own the manse property, consequently the manse was not furnished as you had described it to be. We not only had to purchase a washer and dryer but had we not brought dishes, silverware, beds, bedding etc. we would have been in a bad way.

I'm afraid the conditions will continue until a decision is made to let the church have the present manse and lot as their own property.

Cordially yours,

Bill

W. H. Gavin

May 13, 1957

Mr. Lucien H. Tribus
Legal Counsel
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Tribus:

Thank you so very much for your letter with the enclosed check for \$50,000.00 and the formal receipt for policy of fire insurance. The good news arrived Saturday afternoon.

In your letter you said that it was your understanding that notices of installments on principal and interest be sent to me. Since the first interest payment is ten years from now, it might be wise to address them to the treasurer of the First Presbyterian Church of Sitka, Alaska. If, however, a name is needed in accordance with your policy I am willing to have the notices addressed to me. Also, I wish to express our appreciation for the changed schedule of payment enabling us to receive full use of the time originally appropriated.

I am sure you will rejoice with us to know that a Baldwin 5A organ is being given as a memorial, also that another person has promised to supply all the pulpit furniture as a memorial gift. We hope to get many of our pews as memorial gifts also.

In my previous letter to you I mentioned the manse simply to indicate our position in the matter. The session went on record to request that the present property be deeded to the church. This request was placed in the hands of Dr. Jackman. The church is not looking for more money from the Board. It is asking for a piece of property and a building that has been occupied by the ministers of the church for years.

We are deeply grateful to God for his wonderful goodness and to you, Mr. Cox, Dr. Jackman, and the many, many others who are playing such a vital part in enabling us to continue the building of this Sanctuary for His glory.

Sincerely,

W. H. Gavin

May 24, 1957

The Rev. William Gavin
Box 538
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Bill:

Following the receipt of your letter of May 13th asking for a permanent deed to the manse from the Board of National Missions to the church, I presented the request to the Cabinet of Missionary Operation. There was a definite opposition in the Cabinet to granting a permanent deed to the church of this location which is really the heart of the front of the campus, when it might later be needed for a faculty residence. It was felt that in the long run the manse should be located nearer to the church, and it would be unwise to consider this as the permanent location.

Following our last meeting, Miss Claiffelter has raised the question again about the possible need for the manse for faculty housing within a few years. In the light of that, she was willing to renew the request for Priority Funds for a larger amount to build a house which would be available for the use of the church as a manse until the church is able to get one of its own. This was questioned again because of the limited amount of funds in the Priority Fund for necessary buildings over the entire National Missions field.

It was recognized that the church needs a manse and cannot do anything about it now, and that in the future the school might need the building for housing. The discussion ranged around the possibility of disregarding the request of the church and allowing the present situation to continue, of offering a five or ten year lease to the church at a nominal rent of one dollar a year with the full responsibility of care of the property, or of recognizing the church's reticence about putting a sizeable amount of repairs into the manse when they might lose the use of it within a few years. Out of all of this discussion, the Cabinet took the following definite action:

1. That the church be permitted to continue to use the house as a manse.
2. That the church assume responsibility for the care and upkeep of the house and grounds including a plot of 150 feet frontage and 160 feet depth.

3. That, in recognition of the Board's ownership and the church's use of the house, the Board and church share equally in the cost of repair and maintenance of the house as long as it is used as a manse.
4. As soon as the church is able to provide a manse of its own, or when the Department of Educational and Medical Work needs the use of this house as a faculty residence, it will be released to the school for its program. Advance notice of one year shall be given by either party to the other. Any such action on the part of the Board will be contemplated without undue hardship to the church in its provision for a manse for its minister.

In passing this action it was recognized that the church should have some obligation for the property because of the continual use of it in the interests of the church, but that their investment in repairs would be no more than a very modest rental amount in the ongoing program. In joining in this action, Miss Cladfeltor wanted it to be made plain that she would not want anything to be done which would cause a hardship to the church if they are pressed severely for additional housing for faculty. Meanwhile, if real development comes to Sitka Church from new permanent residents in the community, it may be possible that the repayable loans on the church building will be taken care of within five years, and the church could do something about a manse of its own before it has to face a decision on the disposition of the extra \$30,000 for the completion of the sanctuary at the end of the ten year period.

The Board meets on June 6th. The Cabinet feels that it is not necessary to take this action to the Board, but that it is within the jurisdiction of the Cabinet to approve it for future arrangements. If there is anything in connection with this that should be taken to the Board, we should have it here prior to June 6th.

This action does not provide a permanent settlement of the question of the manse, but we should all remember that there is no disposition on the part of the Board to do anything drastic about it and the Board will share with the congregation the necessary repairs and upkeep.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackson

JEL:lt
Cc/ The Rev. Brian Claverth

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

May 24, 1957

Mr. Alistair D. Short
Box 538
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Alistair:

We have your letter of May 17th in which you have indicated the development of a church library, and have asked if our office can get you a good discount on the books. This is quite an order but can be handled for you.

You can do this in one of two ways: you can give this list of books to your library at Chaldon Jackson and have them purchase them at the library discount; or you can send us the list of the books and we can purchase them at our trade discount, which would be about 25 per cent to you unless there are some sets of books on which we are unable to get any discount. The amount which we receive runs from 20 to 33 per cent, depending upon the volume from any one publisher.

In order to do this we would need to know the name of the book, the author and the publisher. As you know, our average discount is 25 per cent, but this is supposed to apply only to individual missionaries for books for their personal use. We would recommend that you try it through the local school library and see what can be done there.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackson

JWJ:lt
Cc. The Rev. Brian Cloworth



Algonquin

BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS

OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N.Y. ALGONQUIN 5-5000

June 20, 1957

The Hon E. L. Bartlett
1929 House Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

Since you have shown your interest in law enforcement in Alaska, there is another situation about which something should be done through government agencies.

Our Board owns and operates a radio station in Sitka. Some of the old timers in Sitka, in anticipation of the boom that is going to come through the construction of the Japanese lumber mill, have been preparing for an "open city". An effort was made in the last election to get some good men to run who could stand up to evil interests, and look for a better town. Finding no man who would do this, Mrs. Myra Sarvella declared for the mayorship, and Mrs. Clarence Rands declared for a seat in the City Council. They went on the air several times a day prior to the election and surprised everyone by being elected. The election was by such a narrow majority that a recount was demanded by the opposition. The recount showed a few more votes for each one of them. Upon taking office Mrs. Sarvella appointed Mrs. Rands as chairman of the Police Committee, and the two women began to try to clean up the town.

Later developments showed that in redefining the laws of Sitka, the ordinances against gambling and prostitution were omitted. After a battle through the City Council, these have been reenacted. Information about what was involved in Council meetings was put on the air over our radio station and people from the city began to attend the meetings of the Council. Factual reports of happenings have been given. Our two radio staff people responsible for this news reporting have had their lives threatened.

In these developments every effort has been made by the opposition to discredit both the mayor and the woman council member. The son of Dr. Mankinen, head of the U. S. Public Health Hospital at Mt. Edgecumbe, was over in Sitka and became drunk. Mrs. Rands told the police to take

him home. Instead they arrested him in the hope that something would be stirred up against Mrs. Rands in the community. The incident was blamed personally on Mrs. Rands and Dr. Mankinen urged all of the staff at Mt. Edgecumbe to boycott the Rands Stores. The one who gave me this information states that it can be proved if necessary. The result has been that business has fallen off considerably in the Rands Stores. The question which I raise is - what right the head of a U.S. Public Health Hospital to urge staff people to boycott a local store in revenge over what has happened to his own son through the son's fault in violating the law? Mrs. Rands does not know I am writing this letter to you, but I think the U.S. Public Health Service should call Dr. Mankinen down for such an action.

I am reminded that several years ago when the Rev. Elwood Hunter was the pastor of the Sitka Church, that he and one of his officers bucked the evil influences in Sitka and had their lives threatened too. In the present situation, the ones whose lives have been threatened have had children throw stones at them through the influence of adults in the community.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Department of Work in Alaska
(dictated by Dr. Jackman and signed in his absence)

JAJ:lt

Cc: Dr. R. R. Armstrong, Sheldon Jackson Junior College, Sitka, Alaska
The Rev. Brian E. Cleworth, Box 2539, Juneau, Alaska



BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS

OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N.Y. ALGONQUIN 5-5000

July 9, 1957

The Rev. William Gavin
First Presbyterian Church
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Bill:

We have been thinking about the necessity for a replacement for Mr. Short when they leave at the end of August. Recently we have considered seriously two girls as prospects but neither one of them have felt called to this particular task.

A letter has come from Mr. Short suggesting the possibility of having Robert Cameron, son of Mr. and Mrs. Redes Cameron, take over this work and the apartment which the Shorts are using, for a period of time until he can get ready financially to enter the seminary. I do not know Robert or his fitness for this work and am referring the suggestion to you for consideration. Mr. Short may already have talked to you about it.

If Robert does not fit your need at Sitka but does have a warm spiritual atmosphere and active interest in the work of the Kingdom, we might consider him on an intern basis to help in the program at Barrow. He might make a very good connecting link between Sitka Church and Junior College and the work in Barrow.

In light of the development which is coming to Sitka, I am wondering if we ought to consider a young, ordained minister to assist you in the church and government project program. The volume of work there is going to increase rather than decrease, and with the completion of the new building you will have greater facilities for more activities. We ought to give this serious consideration before we enter into any long-term arrangement.

We are writing to Mr. Yaw about holding on to the apartment which the Shorts have downtown. Even if we do not have an immediate replacement, it might be well for us to hold on to the apartment for future use. We anticipate that the rent might increase and in light of pressure for housing in Sitka would not be surprised if it did. If we do not have anyone to occupy it immediately it might be used by some of the single staff members of the Junior College as a "haven of refuge" for a day off or overnight for staff members of the school.

Some suggestions from you on this would be helpful for actions in the immediate future.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackman

JEM:lt

Cc/ The Rev. Brian Cleworth

July 10, 1957

Mr. Leslie Iaw
Pioneer Homes
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Les:

You are probably aware of the fact that the Shoris are leaving Sitka about the first of September to return to the states for their furlough and retirement. We have been seeking a replacement for them, but as yet do not have that person or persons lined up for sure. We have written to Mr. Gavin about certain persons and whether or not we should have a young woman, a layman or a couple, ordained or lay. We have some prospects but do not know how quickly they will mature.

Meanwhile we are thinking about the apartment which the Shoris have occupied. We know that there is going to be a pressure in Sitka for housing for the construction workers coming in and we do not want to lose occupancy for a few months if it means that we will have a critical situation to provide housing for a person or persons on the staff of the church. We feel, even though we may not have an immediate replacement, we ought to hold the apartment. If nothing else, it might be made available for single members of the staff of the school to get away from the campus for a day or overnight as a "haven" of refuge from campus pressures.

We are also aware of the fact that rentals in Sitka are going to increase because the pressure of inflation is on during the boom period. We feel that you have been very fair with us in the rental of this apartment and are willing to consider with you a reexamination of the current rental price.

Best regards to all of you. It was good to see Betty and Taylor here at 156 and also at the General Assembly. Everytime I saw them I had to think of the whole family.

Cordially,

J. Earl Jackman

JES:lt
Cc. The Revs. Elsworth and Gavin



REV WILLIAM GAVIN - MINISTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SITKA, ALASKA

PHONE BLACK 170 - P.O. BOX 236

Nov. 1, 1957

Dear Dr. Jackman:

We had a great time! I believe the Lord has great and wonderful things in store for us. Perhaps we will be ready to receive them.

Sam Rutledge may be interested in the position — would it be possible to stretch the budget a bit to make it possible for him and his wife to come? I believe he would do an excellent job with the youth, and the total program — School and Church. I can't wait to say much until

I hear from you so would
appreciate an early answer.

As ever,

Bill

Sitka Church

November 8, 1957

The Rev. William Gavin
Box 538
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Bill:

Your letter of November 1st about the possibility of having Don Rutledge on the staff of the church has just arrived. A letter from Jim Rohrbaugh has raised the same question for you at Sitka and whether or not we might ask him to be on our boat for itineration among the Indians.

On the question of Don I would have to examine the budget to see whether we can stretch it far enough to include Don and his wife as well as our responsibility to Austin Van Felt. We could do it for the rest of this year because we have a little extra money in sight, but we will have to examine circumstances a little more closely about next year. We have a commitment for half time salary to Austin through the month of June. We had asked for and received funds for a full salary at the old rate for a successor to Mr. Short for the entire year. If we had Don also on the staff, we would have to dig up one-fourth of regular support in addition to the commitments which we have now for the full year. That is not impossible, but there may be some other way to work it out.

Both our department and Ed & Ned feel that the interest which we have combined in Austin are full time for both of us. If the school would take Austin under full salary for the school year, we then would have budget to have Don and his wife. Suppose you talk to Arny about this. Neither department has made any definite commitment to Austin beyond next June. I wrote him that it might be possible for him to be associated with any one of the three departments working in Sitka, and we would leave his future until about February when we would try to determine what his relationships might be beyond June. He and Eleanor are willing to remain in Alaska indefinitely.

If Austin's abilities and service are not the type that the school wants in the Bible Department, it might be possible for us to use him in some other field with our department. As chairman of the Ministerial Relations you should know in strictest confidence that Mossoms have written about leaving Metlakatla in May to enter summer school in Princeton Seminary and to spend next winter in school. They and I came to this understanding in my visit with them on the way south. This should not be mentioned outside of yourself, Paul Moser and Brian Cleworth. I am not sure that Austin is the one to fit into the Metlakatla situation, but we should consider this

Page 2

November 8, 1957

Mr. Gavin

possibility. The announcement of his leaving may not be made public until the time of the Presbytery, unless there should be some unforeseen incident in Wetlockville which would cause us to share the information with the Session of the Church.

All this means to say that with some maneuvering, it may be possible to have Don Rutledge.

We had an excellent letter from Jim Rohrbaugh saying what a wonderful time they had there, and what good results came from the meetings. Regards to all of you.

Cordially,

J. Earl Jackman

JLJ:ph

Dictated by Dr. Jackman
but signed in his absence

cc Clewett



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SITKA, ALASKA

REV WILLIAM GAVIN - MINISTER

PHONE ELACK 170 - P.O. BOX 556

Dr. J. Earl Jockman
c/o The Rev. Victor Adelson
First Presbyterian Church
Fairbanks, Alaska

June 28, 1958

Dear Dr. Jockman:

At a called meeting of the session with six elders present a unanimous vote was cast to invite Mrs. Belva McClure to be associated with us in our work at Mt. Edgecumbe and in First Church.

The references were passed around prior to the vote and each member was asked to comment.

It was pointed out that there would be a period of adjustment for her but the group was enthusiastic in its response believing

that Mrs. McClure's character and spiritual stamina would, with the Lord's help, enable her to continue her outstanding service to the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church.

I will write to her to tell her of the Session's decision and to welcome her to our work.

Shall I proceed to make housing arrangements? The apartment used by the shorts may not be available by September according to Rev. Wells — — — —. I will gather the necessary information and let you know how we stand. If necessary, Mrs. McClure can stay with us until housing is available.

We hope you are continuing to have an enjoyable trip.

Sincerely,
Bill

June 28, 1958

C
O
P
Y

Mrs. Neba L. McClure
715 Adair Avenue
Sheridan, Wyoming
Box 111

Dear Mrs. McClure:

Each member of our session had the opportunity to review your personal papers. At a called meeting of the session last evening your recommendation papers were studied. I shared with the session the glowing report Dr. Jackman gave to me about you and the decision was unanimous to invite you to share with us in the tremendously challenging work at Mt. Edgecumbe and in the church and community of Pitka. We are praying that our Lord's will shall be accomplished and that your response will be in the affirmative if He wants you here.

We think Pitka is a beautiful community. We do have rain but we also have sunshine. The bay, dotted with islands, surrounded by mountains, snow capped most of the year, make this a most picturesque spot. Mt. Edgecumbe is located on several islands joined by causeways. The population numbers about 1800. The hospital has about 250 beds and specializes in patients suffering from tuberculosis. There will also be a large pediatric ward. In the past a great deal of work was done with orthopedics but I understand this service is being transferred to Anchorage. There is also a general hospital included within the walls and under the supervision of the Department of Public Health.

We carry on a visitation program in the "San" -- this would be part of your work. I call also and administer the Sacraments from time to time. In addition to the hospital there is also a government high school providing for the educational needs of about 700 native children. These boys and girls come from most of the towns and villages of the territory. Each Tuesday evening I have accompanied the person who formerly filled the position we have called you to and together we have provided a Christ-centered program for the Presbyterian preference boys and girls.

These have taken the form of teaching or, on occasion, preaching sessions. We have used film strips, movies (religious ones) and played Bible games. Always there has been a period of singing. Last year we had as many as 125 at some of the meetings. The lowest attendance was at the beginning of the year when we had about 65. Some of these children attend our services on Sunday in the church. A community, non-denominational church has sprung up on the "Island" and many of our members attend there. There are still many of our members living at Mt. Edgecumbe who continue to come to Sitka to worship and fellowship. There is a definite ministry to be continued with these folk. I call at Edgecumbe as often as possible.

Due to the construction of a \$55,000,000 lumber and pulp mill, Sitka is a growing community. It is estimated that at the end of three years, after the construction men are gone, the over-all population of the Sitka-Mt. Edgecumbe area will be better than 7000. We have about 5000 population at present.

Lack of adequate recreational facilities, too many liquor establishments and a tradition of questionable moral standards through the years brings into being many problems for the church and concerned Christian people. We are trying to hold forth the Word of Life and we testify that the Lord has been faithful!

As you may know, Sheldon Jackson Junior College is located in Sitka. It has a staff of about thirty-five and a high school student body of about 135, the junior college had about 15 students last fall. The enrollment is much higher for the coming fall I understand. There is also a grade school and high school in the community of Sitka with about eight hundred children attending. Immediately you see the student potential in the community. This alone presents a tremendous challenge.

To facilitate our efforts for Christ and His Kingdom is radio station KSEW, owned and operated by the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. If we can produce broadcast quality programs we can use the station. The Sunday morning worship service is now on the air. I also have a five minute daily devotional that has been on the air at 7:30 each morning for over one year.

We are rushing to complete the building of a new church and Christian Education unit. We hope we will be able to occupy the sanctuary by this fall. We have been in the Christian Education unit for a year and a half. We need continued guidance and leadership in our Christian Education program. Mrs. Chester Latta is an excellent superintendent but we need the additional help of a person like yourself. Our youth program is doing fairly well but it also needs a boost. We have three youth groups: Pilots, 8-10 years; J.Y.F., 11-14 years; Senior W.F., 14 years and older. A "single" Geneva Fellowship organization was started this year but it is still struggling for life. All of them are good and have been doing quite

COPY

well but they need more attention than I have been able to give them. We also have been conducting a youth recreation program in the Fellowship Hall each Saturday night. It is our hope that next year we will be able to encourage the high school students to enjoy our facilities at the close of school each day.

Last year the church was responsible for the church school and the A.F. program for the Eldon Jackson students. I know we will not continue as we did last year but we have not come to a decision as to what will be done. I will probably be in conference with the school's C.E. director, the Rev. Austin Van Felt and others and will let you know as soon as possible what has been decided.

This has been a running commentary or summary and is not at all complete but it will give you an idea of the total work and program of outreach. I left out a most important area although I referred to it generally, and that is the need for visitation, not only on church members but on the new-comers. I have covered two of the trailer courts but they should be visited again. The others have as yet not been touched.

We hope to hear from you soon. May the Lord Jesus Christ guide you as you prayerfully decide and may His richest blessing be upon you.

Sincerely in Christ,

William H. Gavin

cc: Dr. J. Earl Jackson

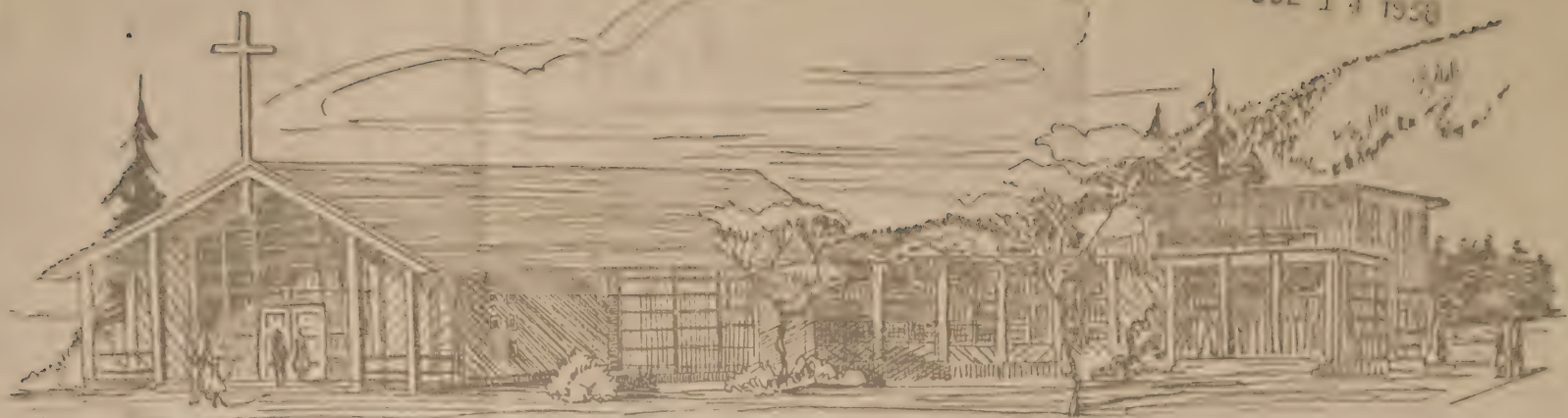
P.S.

It just occurred to me -- you do have a car. To do the job, a car is a must! I don't know what we would have done without ours. Also, I am checking on housing for you. We are holding a small, two room apartment down town but have leased it to the radio station for temporary housing. Their new homes should be well under way and perhaps one may even be completed by fall, but that is not certain. We will be happy to have you stay at the house with us if housing is not immediately available. I will really work on it for you.

W.H.G.

COPY

JUL 14 1958



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SITKA, ALASKA

REV. WILLIAM GAVIN - MINISTER

PHONE BLACK 170 - P.O. BOX 536

Dr. J. Earl Jackman
Room 711
156 Fifth Ave
New York, N. Y.

July 8, 1958

Dear Dr. Jackman:

It looks as though the Parochial will be completed by about September 1st. Everything has been moving smoothly — and fast! The pews et al. have been ordered. As the time draws near we will be better able to tell more specifically the exact date! As you know we are all most anxious to occupy as soon as possible. Sunday, while in a building committee meeting I found it necessary to say, "Gentlemen, let us do this decently and in order, let us plan a proper

service of dedication before we use the building.
It was necessary to move into the fellowship
hall $1\frac{1}{2}$ years ago because of circumstances
which demanded it, but now let us not rush
so fast that we will miss an opportunity to
glorify God and praise him in the dedication
of this sanctuary for his eternal glory.

In session meeting this Friday we will
discuss the matter and appoint a Committee to
plan such a service but I am sure the
congregation will want to worship in the new
sanctuary as soon as possible! One of our elders
said Dr. Paul S. W. might was supposed to "dedicate"
a new church. We will discover if there has been a
commitment to this score. In the mean time
you can be thinking about it and perhaps the
new Moderator would be the one to come. Most
certainly we want you to be present. I would
like your suggestions on the matter.
The important fact is that we want to

have the dedication service before we start holding regular worship service in the church if at all possible.

The second matter I wish to suggest is in regard to property for a manse if it seems impossible to obtain the present site. As I stated before, this has been the manse for 40 + years and it seems it should remain so but if the Canyon continues to object, we of course, will have to move elsewhere.

There is a lot, in fact it is about $\frac{1}{2}$ acre, that will be up for sale very soon. Lying from the Canyon toward town it is a lot removed from the Episcopal Church property on the town side. As the Haley residence. Mrs. Haley is too old to live alone and

her children will be selling the house & property. The house ~~would~~ have to be torn down but the lot, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre, is in an excellent location. A price has been set but I'm sure they will come down - way down. The property could be divided into 3 or even 4 building lots and thus absorb some of the cost or even cover it completely.

The present asking price is \$30,000. If this could be reduced, and I'm sure it could, and two lots sold, the ground on which the house could be built and a sufficient amount for a good-sized yard would be rather reasonable - prices being what they are in Sitka. The property has frontage on Lincoln St. - about 70-80 ft and extends all the way back to Etolin St.

I hope you will get a chance to rest and pray God's blessing on you and yours as you continue to serve Him.

Sincerely,
Bill

Sitka
Ch. Mark

July 23, 1958

The Rev. William Gavin
Box 538
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Bill: ~~Dear Bill: I am so glad to hear from you and~~

Thank you for the wonderful news that the Sanctuary is far enough along that you hope to have services in it early in September. It will be a great day of rejoicing when you are able to use your entire building for the program. I like your idea of moving into it with a service or prayer as you begin to enjoy this new facility in worship and the preaching of the Word.

On the matter of who shall be at the dedication, as far as I know there has been no commitment of Mr. Paul Wright that he is to have the sermon at the time of the dedication. It would be fine to have him there since their church gave \$15,000.00 toward the building. I would consider it a great privilege to be present myself on such an occasion, and have planned to be in Alaska with the ministers on the Evangelistic Mission over the Sundays of October 19th and 26th. It will not be possible for me to be there at any other time this fall.

So far as the new Moderator of the General Assembly is concerned, both Presbyteries decided that if the new Moderator should be a former L.L., he should be invited to attend the meetings of the two Presbyteries in the Spring. Acting upon this decision of the two Presbyteries, I have invited him to come up after Easter, and he has tentatively accepted. We have notified Mr. Barraclough that his schedule is to be held open for us at that time. With this commitment to us in the Spring, I doubt if we could expect to have him there anytime in the fall for the dedication. I shall be with him in the Spring, and he will have the Sunday in southeastern Alaska between the meetings of the two Presbyteries.

Recognizing your very sincere and earnest desire to begin worship in the spirit of prayer, I would suggest that you have this type of service on the Sunday you move into the Sanctuary, and then have a formal dedication a little later. If it be wise and convenient, why not plan for it on the 19th of October as you begin your Evangelistic Mission and invite Paul Wright to come up to be the main speaker. I could be there too. Another possibility might be Mr. Miven from Omaha, whose church gave \$5,000.00 for the equipment in the Christian Education building. Too many invitations could not be issued because the local church there might be expected to pay the transportation of the visiting speakers.

The Rev. William Gavin

I am hopeful that we may have something for the new Moderator to dedicate next Spring, but that will be too long for your people to wait. Thanks for consulting me about this in advance.

On the matter of another location for the manse, I do remember the Haley property because we had hoped to have that for the location of the new church. The asking price is much too high, and probably as you suggest, may be reduced because the buildings on it are of very little value. We have the indefinite use of the present manse, but if the student body of the school expands, there will be an increasing demand for all of the building facilities which they can have, and there will be increasing pressure to use the present manse for their program. This is not an imminent problem, and the church is not in a position to invest a large amount of money in another manse, but if the ownership of the Haley property could be acquired within reasonable costs, it would be my recommendation that the local church purchase it. It is my purpose here to protect the use of the present manse as long as possible, but in future years it would be very wise to have the new location.

Mrs. McClure is in process of closing up her house and disposing of her furnishings in Sheridan, Wyoming with the expectation of coming to Sitka around September 1st. I have not heard whether her mother will accompany her when she arrives, or whether her mother will come later. Your letter to her gave the assurance of her appointment, and I shall be writing her in a few days. Her son from Brooklyn has gone out to help his mother dispose of her things and asked about bringing her car which is a 1948 or 1949 model. I advised against the cost of shipping a car so old to Sitka, and recommended that she go by air and think in terms of getting something up there in the nature of a small foreign car for transportation between the church and the dock.

Regards to all the family. We hope Hugh continues to improve.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Dept. of Work in Alaska

JEL:EW

C C: The Rev. Brian H. Cleworth, 2800 Chautauque Avenue, Long Beach, Calif



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SITKA, ALASKA

Rev. WILLIAM GAVIN - MINISTER

PHONE BLACK 170 - P.O. BOX 236

Dr. J. Earl Jackman
156 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y.

September 2, 1958

Dear Dr. Jackman:

Mrs. McClure and her mother arrived in Sitka on Saturday, Aug. 30. She is a very fine person and I believe, very much interested in doing the work to which she has been called. Army graciously has provided two rooms in the infirmary where Mrs. McClure and her mother can live until an apartment is vacated by Mr. McCluggage. I believe they will be comfortable. They were our

guests for dinner and Saturday evening.
We were working on the Christian Education
conference we plan to have on Sunday Sept. 7.
We will be working together again on that
program this afternoon with Mrs. Latta and
others.

We have had several set-backs in
the Church building. In addition to the
Chas. Latta's leaving due to the mental
illness of Elwood (a nervous breakdown - he
is institutionalized), the Tacoma Plumbing
and Heating Company sent the wrong unit
for our "quick heat & air conditioner" in
the sanctuary and also failed to send the
part that exhausts the air from the building.
Our lead carpenter fell and broke his
heel. He is in the hospital and we don't

know when he will be able to walk again.
We hope it will be within a few weeks
but even so, he will not be able to climb!

Now — we are still striving to be
ready for the formal dedication service
October 19 or 24 but we are not sure.

The session would be happy to have you
here to participate and also would like to have
your suggestion carried through in which
you stated that Dr. Wright be our
Evangelist and also preach the dedication.

Is this still possible?
Suman.

S. J. has a record — high enrollment
and it looks like a good year ahead.

As ever,

Bill

Sept. 11, 1958

Dr. Paul S. Wright
1200 S. E. Alder Street
Portland 5, Oregon

Dear Paul:

The First Church of Sitka has been using its Christian Education wing for a couple of years, and is now striving to complete the Sanctuary sometime this fall. They had hoped to be in it for the 1st Sunday of September, but have been delayed because of failure to get the necessary parts for their heating equipment. They have now set their goal for October 19th or 26th, which are the two Sundays for the Evangelistic Mission.

Since your church was so generous to them in helping them provide for this new structure, they would like to know whether it would be possible for you to be present on either one of these Sundays to deliver the message for the dedicatory service. The Session has also asked that I be present and it is my expectation to be in the Territory in connection with the Evangelistic Mission. Can you be there?

One of the items in their letter which they have not answered is the cost of your transportation. They have been pouring all available money into the completion of the structure and the necessary equipment including pews. I would take it for granted that their invitation would include the cost of your transportation, but on the other hand, this may be doubtful. If you can go, and there is any doubt about paying your transportation, I would be willing to write to your Session asking if your Session would release you for this service, and underwrite the transportation cost necessary. First we want to know whether you can go.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Dept. of Work in Alaska

JEJ:EW



SEP 19 1958

1200 S. W. Alder Street

Portland 5, Oregon

September 15, 1958

The Rev. Earl Jackman, D.D.
Board of National Missions
United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Earl:

The thought of a trip to Sitka, Alaska, to participate in the services of dedication of the new church was very alluring. I am not, however, in a position to leave my work here at the present time. We are in the midst of a financial campaign at that time and have made big plans for Laymen's Sunday, October the 19th. Would it not be possible for us to send a communication from our session, congratulating the church on its accomplishment and expressing our good will and continued good interest in them. This may be an adequate expression of our interest under the circumstances. I shall appreciate knowing to whom I ought to write in order that we may send this fraternal letter. Thank you for suggesting the idea. I am sorry that I could not be free to accept.

With best wishes to you, I am

As ever yours,

Paul S. Wright

Paul S. Wright

PSW:bk

Sept. 22, 1958

The Rev. William B. Gavin
Box 538
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Bill:

Glad to know that Mrs. McClure and her mother have arrived, and that your fall program is getting under way with her assistance. We had a very nice letter from Mayreld Swanson stating that your conferences were good, and that you have the prospects of a fine program for the fall and winter.

Following your letter, I wrote to Paul Wright and asked if it would be possible for him to be present at the dedication of the church on October 19th or 26th. A letter has just come from him stating that they are in the midst of a financial campaign, and it will not be possible for him to be away at that time. He deeply appreciates the invitation, and raises the question whether a communication might be sent from their Session to your Session and congregation upon this occasion. We are writing him that this would be a good substitute for his presence.

Tom Lange has just been in the office and has brought us the information that you are looking forward to October 26th as the date for the dedication. We are glad to have this information, and I shall plan my schedule to be in Sitka that week end. Let me know what you want me to do in the service, and I shall be very happy to follow your direction. Shall I bring my pulpit robe?

In your letter there was no mention of the health of Hugh, so we take it for granted that he has definitely improved, and has resumed his normal place in the family. It will be good to see all of you again. Best regards to Peggy and the family.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Dept. of Work in Alaska

JEJ:EW

CC : The Rev. Brian H. Cleworth, Juneau, Alaska

*Sitka
Ch*

Sept. 22, 1958

Dr. Paul S. Wright
First Presbyterian Church
1200 S.W. Alder Street
Portland 5, Oregon

Dear Paul:

We are sorry to learn that your commitments there do not permit you to be in Alaska for the dedication of the new Sanctuary in Sitka. However, we can understand this and would be glad to have you write a letter of congratulation from your Session and yourself to the church in Sitka upon this occasion. This cannot take the place of having you there personally, but would be a substitute and will be greatly appreciated by the congregation.

At present, they are contemplating the dedication on Sunday, October 26th. This will be a great day in the history of the church. For about 15 years, this project was delayed because of the inability of those concerned to come to an agreement regarding the site of the church building. In some respects it has turned out that this was a good thing because the site which would have been chosen then would have represented the past history of the church, while the new site is in a good location for the future development that is now coming with the construction of a new pulp and lumber mill on the edge of the city. Following the decision on the location, they went through the struggle of trying to secure enough funds to construct a building which would be of sufficient size to care for the present and future congregation of the community plus the student body of our highschool and junior college, and about 25% of the students in the government school across the channel at Mt. Edgecumbe. The provision of a building of such size was more than the local congregation could undertake. You and your people were very generous in giving them \$15,000.00, and finally we prevailed upon the Board of National Missions to extend to them another \$30,000.00 beyond the regular mortgage provision because the whole church has an obligation to provide this extra facility for their worship and program. They have had a tremendous amount of free labor from the congregation and others, and have been worshipping in the Christian Education wing of the building for the past two years. The near completion and the use of it would give them more adequate facility for the total program for the community and the students in nearby schools. They still have the problem of securing a manse, which belongs to the church(they have been using one of the houses on the college campus), but the provision of an adequate church manse is a great step in advance. They are more ready now to offer a full program to the community.

For the Board of National Missions, I want personally to express our appreciation to you and your congregation for your generous gift. The people of the local church have expressed this in their desire to have the pastor of the First Church with them on this historic occasion.

Dr. Paul S. Wright

Since you cannot be there, send your letter of congratulations to the Rev. William Gavin, P.O. Box 538, Sitka, Alaska. I expect to be there and will be glad to give them your personal greeting and regrets.

Best regards to you.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Dept. of Work in Alaska

JEJ:EW

DEC 8 1958

Sheldon Jackson Junior College
Sitka, Alaska
December 4, 1958

Dr. J. Earl Jackman
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Jackman:

At our last Session Meeting, the matter of our Pastor's vacation was brought up. Our discussion was long on various phases of the problem. I want to share with you the things we discussed.

1. It was felt that we were indeed obligated to pay Mr. Gavin's transportation.
2. That his salary should be paid.
3. We should start thinking about how we will fill the pulpit and who will do the pastoral work while he is away.

On item number one,; We felt that there is some sort of misunderstanding about how much we are obligated. Mr. Prescott, who served on the Pastor Seeking Committee, stated that he did not remember any mention of terms about the fourth year vacation. Mr. Gavin, who was not present at this part of the meeting, has told me in private that although he remembers this point being mentioned somewhere along the way in the planning for his coming to Sitka, he cannot find it in his written call to our Church.

My understanding has been that your department, in trying to make more Churches self supporting, helped subsidize the small local churches (much as you do the Mission supported churches) in this matter of the pastor's fourth year vacation travel expenses.

The Session has asked me to write, inquiring about this situation. They feel that we have been obligated but not by anything that we as a Session have said. We would like to know if our ideas about help from your department are right or wrong. If correct, how much will your Department underwrite? If wrong, what solution can you give? We feel that the Pastor must get an increase in salary this year if possible. However, if we have the total expenses of this trip facing us as well as our loans, interest, payments on equipment, etc., it may not be possible.

The Church is just beginning to show real signs of growth and development, and we feel that it may be possible to increase our benevolence budget this year, as well. In closing the meeting, it was a unanimous feeling that we would do all that was contracted, even if no help was forthcoming but that a new agreement would have to be reached before a new term was begun.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter,

Sincerely yours,

William Bullick

Sitka Ch.

December 12, 1958

Mr. William Bullick
Sheldon Jackson Junior College
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Bullick:

Thank you for your letter of December 11th, which gives us a report of your Session meeting in relation to the matter of the church's responsibility for your minister's vacation.

As I remember it, there was no commitment in the call to Mr. Gavin which spelled out the church's responsibility for a paid vacation with round-trip transportation. My feeling is that this was an oversight which should have been included in the call. Those of you who are on the staff of S.J. have such a provision, all of the people in our National Missions church program in Alaska have it, and the government workers from the states have the same thing in one form or another.

Recently, you received a statement of the plan of the Board of National Missions in support of our missionary-pastors on the field as that support is shared between the local church and the Board. From our viewpoint, the church comes to full self-support when it is able to assume the responsibility for all of these provisions in the basic plan of missionary service under the Board of National Missions. However, after a church becomes self-supporting, it is not actually obligated to follow these provisions, but at the same time, a minister has the right to decline a call to a self-supporting church if the church is not willing to accept these conditions.

Often, the provision of these conditions is related to the economic condition of the congregation which is being served. We are seeking to have all of our congregations take as much responsibility in these matters as they are economically able to take. The Sitka Church has been considered a self-supporting church for many years, but only twice in the 15 years I have known it, have they had a long enough pastorate to be required to face this responsibility. After Mr. Hunter had been on the field for four years, we urged the Session and congregation to make this provision for his long vacation and to be responsible for the round-trip transportation. At the time the church felt it could not take the whole round-trip, so we took one way of it in order to assure Mr. Hunter of a vacation with his family in California. Provision was made by the Board and the church for the supply during that vacation period.

In our mission-aided churches we have been helping to cover the field during the furlough vacation by getting Seminary students or retired ministers for that summer. Where we get Seminary students, we ask their home churches to take care of their round-trip transportation for the three or four months service, and we and the local church divide the responsibility for their remuneration in the same proportion that we share their salary. We can help the Sitka Church find a Seminary student on the same basis. However, with all of the Presbyterian ministers which are in Alaska, some arrangements might be made for them to take turns in the preaching and have a student do part of the preaching and the pastoral work under the guidance of the committee of the Session.

My point in raising this question now, is that the Session may do some planning for the summer of 1960, and possibly put something in the budget of 1959 to get ready for this. Let us work together to accomplish this when the time comes.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Dept. of Work in Alaska

JEJ:EW
CC : The Rev. Brian H. Cleworth